# Hafa Adai! Salpan Iribune Volume XXX, Issue No. 130

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY JULY 2, 2020

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# Release of PUA payments soon

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com

ligible applicants who submitted completed applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance can expect to receive payments within the next seven to 10 days.



Benavente

The CNMI Department of Labor is now moving toward the third and fourth phases of the program, according to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, which is claims adjudication and disbursement of payments.

See PUA on Page 4

## July FAC goes up

Expect to see a higher electric bill this month.

Effective yesterday, July 1, 2020, the Commonwealth

#### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 1, 2020

OLD NEW TOTAL

Positive	257	10	267	
Recovered	179	0	179	
Active	83	10	83	
Deaths	6*	0	6*	
Cumulative N of Persons To	13,539			
SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL	
SAIPAN Positive	0LD	NEW O	TOTAL 30	
Positive	30	0	30	

\*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore

\*\*Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Utilities Corp. increased its fuel adjustment charge, soon after being informed by the Mobil Oil Mariana Islands about an increase in the average international fuel prices.

As a result, the current FAC rate of \$0.08323 per kilowatthour has increased to 50.11330 per kWh. This means residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will

See JULY on Page 4

#### COMMUNITY **VULNERABILITY LEGEND:** Red: Least safe **Orange** Yellow Blue Source: Office of the Governor

#### **KEEP OUT**

Closed tourist spots on Saipan such as the Grotto, Banzai Cliff, and Suicide Cliff will soon be opened, with the CNMI residents.



## Torres' NI adventure riles critics

#### By IVA MAURIN

iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com REPORTER

While the video of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Robert Arrington releasing four sambar deer on Pagan has gotten over 175,000 views in just three days, the trip is drawing the attention of the local crowd for completely different reasons.

Residents who have seen

the video are expressing disappointment over the introduction of the deer on Pagan, the presence of the governor on the trip while the islands are in the middle of a pandemic, the use of government equipment and vehicles for the trip, and even the showing of alcohol aboard the De-

See TORRES on Page 4

## BIG found doing unauthorized construction

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Commonwealth Ports Authority directed Bridge Investment Group LLC yesterday to immediately stop after finding out that BIG is building a casino, a restaurant, and VIP rooms at a building on Tipartment of Public Safety's | nian that CPA had authorized | confirmed last Friday that BIG only for a ferry terminal.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said in his report during the CPA board meeting yesterday that he sent a notice to BIG project manager Ray Pangelinan about the company's violations of its lease agreement with CPA.

Tenorio said that Pangelinan

See BIG on Page 4

#### INSIDE

of Persons Tested



#### **BUSINESS**

Secret Garden Saipan on Millionaire Acres in Papago takes the hassle out of "staycations."

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#### SUPPLEMENT

Six months into the COVID-19 pandemic, where are we now? Saipan Tribune finds answers.

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#### WORLD

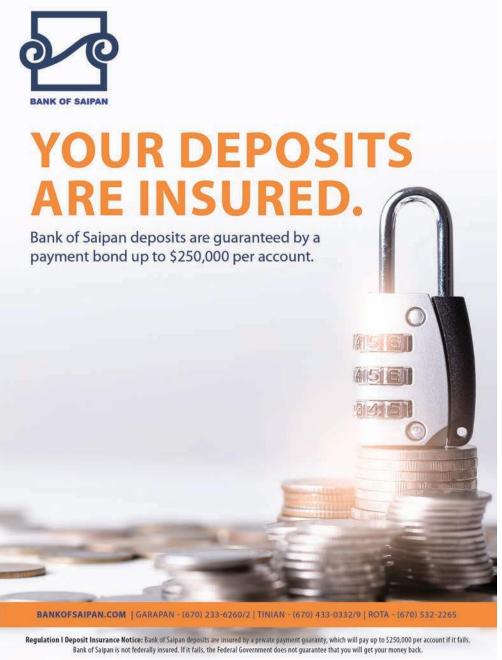
The U.N. Council is trying again to reach an agreement on its COVID-19 resolution.

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**2** THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



## Local

## **IF NOT FOR DUE PROCESS:**

## CCC chair says he would've revoked IPI's casino license

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Were it not for the due process clause, Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said he himself would have revoked the ca-

sino license agreement with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

At CCC's regular monthly board meeting last week, Deleon Guerrero, who is board chair of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, said the board is very concerned about IPI's financial stability. That includes not seeing any financial statement from IPI. He told IPI senior vice president of Public Affairs Tao Xing, who was in the meeting, that the CNMI follows procedural requirement or due process and that the commission follows that process.

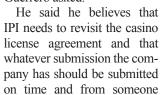
The process begins with CCC issuing the three orders, said Guerrero, referring to the board's action later in that meeting requiring IPI to maintain sufficient working capital to pay

three months' payroll in a bank in the CNMI or in the United States, for it to settle all payable accounts, and for IPI to appoint a chief executive officer.

If IPI does not respond to the three orders, there's a good

chance that suspension of the casino license will immediately follow that, he said. "It is my opinion that if you do not comply with the suspension, we will revoke the license. Mr. Tao, did you hear that, sir?" Deleon Guerrero asked.

with authority.



Deleon Guerrero cited that the Lottery Commission is saying that the last letter that IPI submitted to it has no indication whether the person who signed it was authorized to renegotiate the license agreement. Therefore the Lottery Commission simply did not act on it, he added.

Deleon Guerrero told Tao that since Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. chair and executive director Cui Ji Lie is on Saipan, either have her authorize him (Tao) or have herself sign on anything that would bind IPI.

He said they have a courtesy

copy of the letter that IPI submitted to the Lottery Commission, and that many of IPI's requests in that letter he described as "somewhat insulting." He said the letter asks the Lottery Commission to instruct the

> CCC to stay away from non-gaming. "I mean [the] Lottery Commission does not have the authority. Even the chairman of the Lottery Commission laughing [about] how he could do that,"



Deleon Guerrero said.

He said IPI's letter also asked the Lottery Commission to issue them an internet gaming license when there is not even any internet gaming law on Saipan. "You've got to be realistic on those requests," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said it's ridiculous to ask the Lottery Commission for something over which it has no authority, and that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is upset over the lack of satisfaction in IPI's obligations. "We had a meeting with him in this matter and he's supporting our efforts to enforce these things," he said, referring to CCC's three orders.

Tao said he does have the latest version of IPI's proposed amendment. He provided the board a copy of IPI's proposed amendment, as prepared by their legal counsel, which he signed.

## Tinian also going virtual with LibDay

Like Saipan, the Tinian Mayor's Office will host a virtual celebration of Liberation Day, including a parade, this Saturday, July 4. The commemoration will be livestreamed via Facebook.

The event will take place at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater starting at noon and will last until 10pm, with a drivethru set-up. The parade will be participated in by the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Tinian Class of 2020, elected leaders, including Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, and various community organizations.

"The community is encouraged to follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines as well as our safety measures for vehicle spacing. If participating in the drive-in/drive-thru,

we also would like to push for face mask and hand sanitizer use," said project director Eric Reyes.

There will be designated slots at the drive-thru that is 10 feet apart. In addition, the community is also given the opportunity to watch the event live from the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan Facebook on their smartphones in the comfort of their homes.

"...We would like to encourage our community to come out and enjoy this Fourth of July Liberation Day celebration, or join the virtual live viewing on the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan Facebook page. For one day, we should free our minds from the hardships we face and lift our spirits," a statement from organizers read. (Chevy Alipio)



## Finance: Stimulus check payments increase to \$54.7M

The Department of Finance said yesterday that the total available funding to the CNMI for Economic Impact Payments, also known as the stimulus checks, has increased to \$54.7 million—an increase of \$7.6 million.

"The approval in the increase in funding speaks to our commitment as a government to make sure every eligible taxpayer in the CNMI is provided this assistance. We will continue to make sure that all federal assistance, including the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the rest of the stimulus checks, are disbursed in a timely manner for approved recipients," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Over 90% of this funding has been transferred to the CNMI in order to release payments as rapidly as possible. As of June 30, 2020, the Division of Revenue & Taxation had paid out 32,488 taxpayers in the amount of \$49,891,321.42, with 12,821 qualifying dependents claimed.

The division continues to make adjustments to these claims for ineligible recipients, such as deceased or incarcerated taxpayers, or taxpayers that no longer reside in the CNMI. All recipients are encouraged to return payments that are believed to be erroneous or duplicate payments. Such payments will be

subject to DRT collection.

According to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, the division is working to enter all tax returns as they are received so that these taxpayers will be included in the weekly release of stimulus funds.

Taxpayers who received a check and are entitled to more funds will be able to

Members of the House Spe-

cial Committee on Federal As-

sistance and Disaster Related

Funding reviewing COVID-19

documents yesterday at the

Aside from overtime pay-

ments, the special commit-

tee also wants to get further

clarifications on how contracts

under COVID-19 were ap-

proved. Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-

Saipan), who chairs the com-

mittee, noted that there are

companies in Guam that have

IVA MAURIN

Legislature on Capital Hill.

tices have been sent to each taxpayer via mail delivery confirming amounts that have been paid. All taxpayers are encouraged to keep these notices as documentation of their payment, especially when claiming additional funds. For additional guidance regarding eligibility for an

claim those funds on their 2020 income tax return. No-

Economic Impact Payment, or stimulus check, visit https:// www.irs.gov/coronavirus/ economic-impact-paymentinformation-center.

Additionally, the division will be processing the first batch of child tax refunds in the coming weeks. All who anticipate to receive a child tax refund are encouraged to file a return as soon as possible. (PR)



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#### A closer look at COVID-19 overtime

By IVA MAURIN

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Were Cabinet members paid beyond 16 hours for COVID-19 work? That's what Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) would like to find out more straight from Finance Secretary David Atalig.

Sablan, who is a member of the Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding at the House of Representatives, which met yesterday, now wants to bring the Finance secretary back to the House to clarify on record and under oath.

Atalig earlier told the committee that Cabinet members were only paid straight time. At a hearing last May 13, he said that Cabinet members who had worked "many, many hours" were only paid 16 hours at 1.0, and using the CARES Act funding. Basically, he explained, instead of getting exempt from austerity, the CARES Act provided the

funding and approval for their reassignment to their duties, for the 16 hours above the 64 hours at 1.0.

At the meeting, Atalig also clarified that in a disaster, if Cabinet members or any directors are approved, with a Category B form, and they are providing hours in the emergency being outside of their current duties, then they are qualified to get overtime.

"However, my office has not paid them, anyone outside of those front-line workers, and lower level directors and managers, for overtime," he had said.

Fast forward to over a month, at the committee meeting yesterday, Sablan said, "The secretary of Finance very clearly stated that Cabinet members were not getting paid at that time, and that they were only getting paid, basically having their salaries restored for the 80 hours. So only up to 16 hours straight



time that they were getting paid for their COVID-related work out of the CARES Act funding."

"But," she added, "that really doesn't seem to be the case with most of the Cabinet members who received some sort of COVID pay as well in excess of 16 hours.

In a later interview with Saipan Tribune, Sablan said that they have seen documents of Cabinet members submitting over 100 hours a pay period for COVID-19.

This, on top of the regular pay records that they have yet to receive from the Department of Finance.

The special committee is currently holding an oversight on all contracts and government employee payments related to the COVID-19 operations, and has been reviewing documents to help in their investigation.

received contracts, which could have been awarded to companies in the CNMI.

The special committee is setting up an oversight public hearing on July 20, Monday, where they expect Atalig to attend, along with the Public Affairs Office, the governor's authorized representative, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., among others.

## NMHC working on block grant from HUD

By JUSTINE NAUTA

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The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is currently working on the Community Block Development Grant program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which will focus on disaster recovery that come from a presidentially declared disaster area.

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has made NMHC the lead agency for this program, so this means that everything that NMHC has done for the CBDG-DR program will be approved by the administration.

Since the CBDG-DR is a HUD grant, the main focus will be for housing, which will allow damaged properties to "get up to speed." Furthermore, the HUD program will prioritize low and moderate income, then elimination of slums or blight, and then urgent need.

"It is a housing program at heart so it focuses on the low and moderate income persons," said Jeff Deleon Guerrero, NMHC's CDBG-DR finance manager, during yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly member-

ship meeting where he served as guest speaker. "It's also getting infrastructure back up to speed."

The Chamber meeting was held online.

This grant will focus on what damage were done by the double whammy of Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut that hit in September 2018 and October 2018. This includes damaged properties, storm-damaged infrastructure, and helping people renovate their damaged homes to get back into it.

"I think it's very important to highlight that it can be used as a match for FEMA projthis grant that will cover the FEMA match portion, which is always the best use of money. You pay 10% for somebody else to cover 90% of the funds," said Deleon Guerrero.

The grant does have a 20% portion that's allocated to planning and administration, Deleon Guerrero said. The administration of the grant is maximized at 5% and then planning can be anywhere between 15% or less, which will be up to the grantee.

"It truly is, in a sense, a di-

saster recovery grant, in the sense that anything that we spend, the money on goes back to the disaster, no matter what we use. Every single dollar has to have an explanation of how it was related to either Super Typhoon Yutu or Typhoon Mangkhut," he said.

According to Deleon Guerrero, they have been preparing the applications and procedures, as well as an action plan, for a year now. Furthermore, this program is a 'last resort,' fund. "I want you... to keep in mind that this program is what I call the last resort. Keep that in the back of your mind because the only ects, and there are a lot out way these funds can be used there. There's a big portion of is after Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, Small Business Administration funds, your insurance plans, and anything that has to help with the costs, are done first," he said.

In relation to the explanation of where the funds go, NMHC will have to document everything with a system called the disaster recovery grant reporting system. Deleon Guerrero says that it will be a way for both parties to communicate, with HUD making sure that NMHC is compliant.

#### **DORMANT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS**

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch, Garapan, Tinian or Rota Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 1, 2020.

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2020 will be paid to the "CNMI Treasurer" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2019 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.



Inter Islands International, LLC PMB 1043 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950

STJ Golden Island Investments LLC PO Box 505110 Saipan, MP 96950

Nicholas C Leon Guerrero Jr Rea T Leon Guerrero PO Box 505961 Saipan, MP 96950

South Pacific Environmental CNMI Inc PO Box 1001 PMB A44 Saipan, MP 96950

Tinian EB-5 Regional Center LLC PO Box 505110 Sainan MP 96950

Estate of Enrique Kaipat Seman

PMB 768 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950

Diego D Mendiola 107 Quail CT Dededo Guam, GU 96929

L&A Corporation PMB 76 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950

Fagal Md Dhali PO Box 520340 Tinian, MP 96952

Haitian Construction Group (CNMI) Corp PMB 548 Box 10002 Freedom Dr Saipan, MP 96950

Dzung Van Tran PO Box 501993 Saipan, MP 96950

Easylink Payment Network Hongkong Co PMB 799 Box 10003 Saipan. MP 96950

Wen Jian Corporation PO Box 503888 Saipan, MP 96950

Mi Na Park PO Box 504998 Saipan, MP 96950

Maria Lourdes B Quinto PMB 328 Box 10001 Saipan, MP 96950

Global Pacific Insurance Co PO Box 500035 Saipan, MP 96950

Dominador C Naraja PO Box 504756 Saipan, MP 96950

Hua B Borja PO Box 10003 PMB 65 Tinian, MP 96952

Md Dalawar Hossain PO Box 577 Rota, MP 96951

CWM Trust LLC **DBA Eucon Mart** PO Box 500087 Saipan, MP 96950

Tina R Palacios PO Box 506476 Saipan, MP 96950

Hong Kin Cheang PO Box 10003 PMB 722 Saipan, MP 96950

Cheong Pui Ng PMB 295 Box 10001 Saipan, MP 96950

In Choong Kang PO Box 503709 Saipan, MP 96950

#### PSS eyes amending more policies before opening

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly, hautista@saipantribune.com

The Public School System is looking to amend more school policies to ensure maximum safety for its students and staff this upcoming school year, considering the COVID-19 pandemic

During a Board of Education meeting last Tuesday, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said that he would like to ask the BOE to amend a number of policies, specifically instructional minutes and visitor guidelines, to enable PSS to maneuver through this new school year despite the pandemic.

The first policy Ada wants amended is instructional time to allow flexible scheduling for this school year calendar. "Flexible scheduling is to accommodate our shorter days, disaster-related alternating attendance days, and blended learning environment," he said.

Another policy he wants changed is the procedural guidelines for school visitors. "This is to prevent non-school staff from entering the school buildings, and they must follow the COVID-19 protocol," he said.

Another is student attendance. This is for student who are at high risk for COVID-19 or have family members who are at high risk. "They should

not be penalized for failing to attend and must continue to receive remote learning," he said.

Ada also wants the board policy on student transportation services be amended. "We are going to ask parents, as much as possible, to bring their children to schools but, if they cannot, then we have to allow the student transportation personnel to apply COVID-19 protocols on the bus so if a child does not measure up to normal temperature, they will not be allowed on the bus," he said.

Ada also wants to be given flexibility to mitigate overcrowding. "This is to mitigate the overcrowding of some of our middle schools, our teacher student ratio to reduce commute time and for safety evacuation. So, If you can, allow me to adjust the school boundaries," he said.

The last policy Ada wants amended is internet use in schools. "Currently, we are working on the internet access and the email use for employees and student use, along with a library media service. We need to update the policy language to adhere to today's

standards," he said.

The board voted to allowed Ada the flexibility he needed on instructional minutes. However, according to PSS legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu, Ada has the discretion when it comes to the other policies he proposed and he could just have the board review them.

#### JULY

From Page 1

pay approximately \$15.04 more in their monthly billing.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC

pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the levelized energy adjustment clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate.

CUC encourages its consumers to practice energy conservation. (Saipan Tribune)

#### **PUA**

From Page 1

"Our next phase will be claims adjudication. Data is being inputted already so, as soon as we pull the trigger for the complete applications, payments will be made between seven to eight days, so let me stress, complete applications will be processed fairly quickly. [If it is] incomplete, we [will] have to call our clients first to bring this document or letter or whatever is incomplete," she said in a press conference.

Benavente said that DOL is working tirelessly to expedite the review process of the applications that have already been submitted to get payments out as soon as possible. As of Monday, less than 1,000 applications were considered "complete."

"We are sifting through these applications as quickly as possible and we're working throughout the week and we are going to work through Saturday to further expedite these applications. It's been a challenging time." she said.

Benavente added that she understands that many in the CNMI community are highly stressed in regards to their PUA benefits, but she hopes that, once the first batch of payments are sent out, stress levels will go down.

"It's only been two weeks since the launch but two weeks is a long time for people who are suffering, who are waiting for federal benefits, so I understand the stress levels. We are hopeful that, once the checks are processed, this will lessen family stress levels," she said.

Benavente said DOL has received

over 5,000 PUA applications in the last two weeks, both online and physical applications. Around 400 are from Tinian and Rota, while 4,600 are from Saipan.

During the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's virtual general monthly meeting, DOL employment services director Eugene Tebuteb explained the phases of the PUA program and said Phase 3 will commence this Friday.

"Phase 1 involves online registrations of employers seeking to help their employees by listing reasons for separation. Phase 2 was making the claims application process available online and through walk-ins or through drive-through. Phase 3 of the program will commence this Friday, adjudication, and Phase 4 will ensue immediately after we start making those adjudication," he said.

#### **BIG**

From Page 1

is, in fact, building those projects.

In CPA's notice to cease and desist, it demanded that BIG stop any and all unapproved work immediately. "Until such time that CPA has received, reviewed, and approved plans, any and all work on CPA property shall cease immediately," Tenorio told BIG.

BIG is building the Tinian Ocean View Resort & Casino. In March 2019, BIG and Wyndham Hotel Group held a hotel management signing ceremony for the Wyndham Hotel brand to create a Tinian luxury hotel.

Tenorio disclosed later in an interview that personnel from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and Coastal Resources Management Office and the CPA Tinian port manager inspected the leased property last week and found noncompliance.

Tenorio said that, according to BECQ, they have issued a stop order and then he also issued the letter to BIG for violations and the notice to stop operations until such time that CPA receives plans and review everything. "Once everything is approved, then they can proceed with the project," he said.

In the letter and notice, the executive director told Pangelinan that CPA will be contacting him for an enforcement/permit monitoring meeting that will include the CRMO and BECQ.

Tenorio said BIG converted or intended to convert the ferry terminal into a casino gaming facility/restaurant and VIP rooms without CPA approval. He said BIG is constructing the casino gaming facility/restaurant/VIP rooms without a proper permit from CRMO and BECQ. Tenorio said BIG is also building or initiating the construction of a dormitory without CPA authorization.

The executive director said the violations were found during recent inspections of the leased premises by the Tinian Ports manager, discussions with BIG personnel and contrac-

tor, and talks with CNMI permitting agencies BECQ and CRMO.

Tenorio said BIG has not obtained an amended CRM or BECQ Individual Wastewater Disposal System permit for the changed use.

He said BIG has initiated construction of a dormitory on the leased premises and obtained a permit for the earthmoving for that dormitory—all without securing a prior notice and prior approval and authorization by CPA.

Pursuant to the lease agreement between BIG and CPA, BIG is in violation of its lease agreement, particularly provisions that state that "all structural improvements or renovations shall be approved by [CPA]," he said.

He said BIG only submitted plans and specifications for a ferry terminal to CPA. With that, Tenorio said, CPA is unaware and has not seen any other plans and specifications for any other project. He said BIG continues to make improvements without the CPA's approval and, as a result, is in direct violation of its lease agreement.

"Given all of these, CPA issues a notice of default and breach of the lease upon BIG," Tenorio said, and demands that the company cure this breach.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said in an interview that there has been an ongoing dialogue with BIG with regard to the issue of the septic tank and that CPA reached out to BECQ to find out what's going on. "Why is the casino only permitted for a septic tank? They should be permitted for a waste treatment facility, given the location of the project," King-Hinds said.

Apparently, she said, the application that was submitted to BECQ is supposed to be commercial terminal, which is not the same as what is now being built on Tinian, which is a full-blown casino.

"Instead, they got permitted for a septic tank which is not acceptable for that location. It is right by Kammer Beach. It's where the community goes and hangs out," King-Hinds said.

#### **TORRES**

From Page 1

search-and-rescue boat.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said the governor is promoting the Marianas to a diverse tourism market, while strengthening its reputation as a world-class destination. "The CNMI is 14 islands strong and the Northern Islands have long been both an environmental and cultural priority of Gov. Torres and his administration," he added. "The purpose of the trip is to promote the Marianas as a world-class destination that holds some of the most unique environments and cultures in the world to both existing and new source markets for tourism."

Last week, Torres announced during his regular radio news briefing that he will be out for around 7-10 days, depending on the weather, to join Arrington, a YouTube vlogger, and his film crew for a promotional expedition in the Northern Islands.

#### Sambar deer

The video showed Arrington, with the governor, releasing four deer into Pagan. Prior to that, the video showed Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente helping capture the deer that were eventually released.

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) asked whether there was a permit for the release. "I am troubled by what appears to have been Mr. Arrington's introduction of deer, a non-native species, to Pagan, an island whose native vegetation and ecosystems have already been heavily impacted by non-native species, including cows, goats, and pigs."

"No matter how I look at it, introducing new, potentially invasive species to any ecosystem is not ecotourism. And I also honestly felt so sorry for the poor deer, who were captured on the DLNR secretary's farm... and transported across the ocean for hours to get to Pagan," she added.

In a *Saipan Tribune* interview, Benavente said the deer were more of a food source for the people in the Northern Islands.

He said that, prior to the release, the Office of the Governor consulted DLNR, Northern Island Mayor Vicente Santos, and the residents.

When asked about the potential environmental impact of the introduction of the deer, the DLNR secretary said that deer do not destroy wildlife, unlike goats that eat up and kill trees, or pigs that uproot plants.

Benavente also said that Arrington and his crew were only authorized to hunt cows, goats, and pigs. They are not allowed to go after any threatened, endangered, and protected species on the island, which includes coconut crabs, fruit bats, and sharks, among others.

#### **Alcohol on DPS boat**

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) also took issue with the trip, which he described as a vacation

for Torres, even as the unemployment compensation program for the Northern Mariana Islands has not yet taken off.

The delegate also pointed out the alcohol that can be seen in the video. "On the trip to the Northern Islands...the gentleman [is] holding on to an opened bottle of beer aboard a Department of Public Safety boat, paid for with federal grants for boating safety programs in the Northern Mariana Islands," he said. "I would think it would be illegal to carry, let alone be holding an open bottle of beer aboard a police boat. This is certainly not the promotion the Marianas needs for the \$100,000 contract the government entered into to promote our islands and people. I can say our people are much better than this.

Aside from Arrington holding the bottle of beer in the video, people on the *Impact*, DPS' search-andrescue boat, can be seen not wearing life vests

At the press conference yesterday, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said the governor is still in the Northern Islands, which particular island remains unknown, and is expected to be back, based on initial plans, this weekend. Palacios also said that Torres calls him every morning, and assured everyone that the governor is safe.

The trip is supposedly intended to allow Arrington to promote the islands on his YouTube channel, Deer-MeatForDinner, which has over 2.3 million subscribers.

## 2-year stay on revocation of homestead permits sought



**DONATIONS** 

McDonald's and Triple J Saipan donated yesterday to the Saipan Mayor's Office for the celebration of the Liberation Day that will be held on Saturday, July 4, at the airport field. The celebration will also be streamed live for a virtual commemoration of the event. Photo shows Joe Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's area supervisor for Guam and CNMI, center, presenting a \$1,000 donation to Saipan Mayor David Apatang. In a later statement, Triple J said it upholds a strong commitment to giving back to the island community. "Although 2020 has proven to be more challenging than any other time in history, Triple J's commitment remains unchanged. We are pleased to be able to again support the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Liberation Day Committee, who, together, coordinated the upcoming

virtual festivities to honor those who made our freedom possible and to remember the resiliency of our local people 74 years ago,

#### Manglona raises concern over PUA delay years to overcome'

iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Speaking on the community's frustration over unemployment assistance, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) reached out to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to ask for a timeframe for when the displaced workers in the CNMI can expect to finally receive federal help.

said Mike Sablan, vice president for Triple J Enterprises, Inc.

The U.S. Department of Labor had approved in May the CNMI Department of Labor's implementation plan for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Unemployment Compensation programs, along with the initial release of \$70.5 million in funding. To date, the CNMI Department of Labor has received nearly 5,000 applications for the programs.

While it is understandable that the shortcomings in the nation's unemploymentinsurance system undoubtedly affected our local distribution timeframe, the PUA and FPUC funds of about \$70.5 million have been available as early as June 10, 2020," the senator stated in his letter to Torres. "Our constituents, especially those whose jobs have been directly affected by this pandemic, are asking what is the cause of the delay in issuing their unemployment assistance. ...On top of dealing with their health issues and that of their families, they are stressing over their finances, more so now that they are no longer gainfully employed."

Manglona compared the CNMI's implementation to that of Guam's, noting that

Guam is now on their second Labor announced last June 28. batch of unemployment benefit payments, totaling \$36.4 million in federal funds, bound to reach their residents early next week. "With this second batch, the total amount now paid out on Guam is \$78.3 million, with \$6.3 million going toward taxes."

The senator also noted the 26,614 unemployment claims that had been filed out of 32,539 Guamanians who lost their jobs due to the pandemic,

"This is such a large number to process compared to the CNMI's estimated 4,000 residents who had lost their jobs. Yet, not one person has been issued a check in the CNMI," Manglona said. "Aside from their dwindling cash resources, banks are exhausting their six-month limit on loan extensions. The longer people go without any income, the deeper they sink into debt, leaving them in which Guam Department of financial ruts that can take

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT** REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REP NO.: RFP20-BECQ/DEQ-087

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 03, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS **EVENT – FORMER W-2 SERVICES STATION FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIROMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY. DIVISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"** 

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A,M., LOCAL TIME, **JULY 20. 2020** AT THE 2ND FLOOR BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 205

\*\*ALL ATTENDEES ARE **REQUIRED** TO USE A FACE MASK AND EXERCISE **SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING\*\*** 

**ALL OUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. ROBERT DELEON GUERRERO BY EMAIL AT robertdlguerrero@becq.gov.mp, **NO** LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JULY 22, 2020. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF. AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

By IVA MAURIN

iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com

A lawmaker has asked the Department of Public Lands to suspend the revocation of homestead permits for at least two years.

In a letter to Public Lands Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) appealed for a two-year moratorium, citing the CO-VID-19 pandemic. "The unprecedented...pandemic has wreaked havoc on residents' finances, especially for the hundreds of government workers who have been furloughed or terminated. These economic setbacks most certainly challenge our homesteaders' financial capability to meet the requirements of the homestead program. I humbly ask that you consider placing a moratorium on the revocation of homesteads until such time that the CNMI is COVID-19 free and homesteaders are gainfully employed," Santos said.

The moratorium, according to the senator, will give "breathing homesteaders room" for more immediate costs, without having to wor-

ry about losing their land. "We must remember that each homestead is an asset to the eventual owner. Thus a homestead can be used productively in the future to help the owner recover from losses incurred during the pandemic," she added.

Since last year, the department has been reviewing homesteads and revoking permits that were awarded 15 years ago, where a home has not been built vet-which is one of the requirements of the program. DPL also provided leeway for homesteaders whose homes were damaged by storms.

As a mandate of the CNMI Constitution, the department is required to dispose of public lands, including village and agricultural homesteads.

Senate Bill 21-63, which would amend the Constitution to prohibit DPL from revoking village or agricultural homestead permits after being approved or issued, got recommended for further discussion at the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development Programs meeting Tuesday. S.B. 21-63 was authored by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian).



government.

The senator called to make

this assistance one of the

greatest priorities of the CNMI

NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950

#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SHELTER WORKER (GUMA ESPERANSA)

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Job Summary: The SHELTER WORKER will be employed by NMCADSV and report to Guma Esperansa, Karidat Social Services. Guma Esperansa is the shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI. Shelter workers provide a variety of direct shelter and advocacy services and related administrative tasks under the direct supervision of the Shelter Manager, including ensuring the safety of residents and other staff, assisting with schedules and transportation for clients, conduct intake assessments, participate in meetings and training, and other tasks as assigned. Please see the "Position Description" for a complete list of duties and responsibilities

Minimum Qualifications: An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; an understanding of and agreement with the mission of Karidat Social Services; good verbal and written communication skills; and capacity for warmth and openness for working with people from varied backgrounds.

Applicants must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays to ensure appropriate coverage for Guma Esperansa, a 24-hour residential shelter. Also, applicants should have reliable transportation and a valid CNMI driver's

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Non-Exempt. \$16,500.00 per annum.

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook page.

To Apply: Submit the following on or before 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020. Late or incomplete applications will

- 2. Karidat Application Form (available for download at NMCADSV Facebook Page or by email to info@endviolencenmi.org)
- 3. Copy of Diploma or Degree
- 4. Copy of valid CNMI Driver's License
- 5. Copy of Police Clearance (obtained within the past 6 months)

#### Applications can be submitted through:

- 1. Email (with all attachments) to info@endviolencenmi.org, OR
- 2. Mail hard-copy to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.), OR
- 3. Drop hard-copy to Karidat Social Services, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan (Formerly Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center).

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2019-WR-AX-0051. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

6 THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## **Opinion**



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MEMBER

**AP** The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

#### **EDITORIAL**

## Contact tracing's slow start gives coronavirus time to get ahead

he surge in new COVID-19 case numbers in the Sunbelt and the West is so alarming that New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut now require visitors from "hot spot" states to self-quarantine. As the Philadelphia region reopens, the long-promised expansion of contact tracing—an essential tool to control person-to-person transmission—is just getting started. And as is true with testing, the amount of contact tracing underway is nowhere near what's necessary to control the spread of the coronavirus.

Contact tracing is labor-intensive, especially if it is to be culturally sensitive. Workers reach out to everyone who has been in proximity to a person testing positive for the coronavirus and advises them to self-quarantine. The tracing should happen within 24 hours of exposure; otherwise, those exposed stand a greater chance of exposing more people. Contact tracing also works best when caseloads are growing more slowly. If the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Philadelphia health departments already had full complements of trained contact tracers on the job, the region's current slowdown in new cases would be a chance to get ahead of the pandemic.

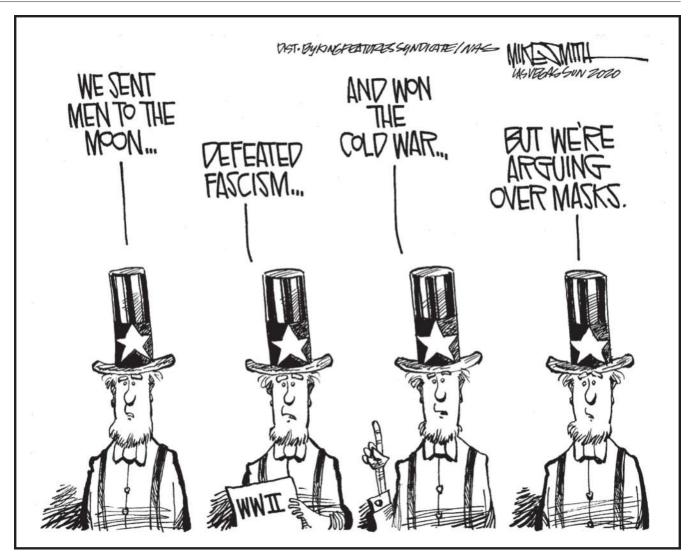
In a recent Spotlight PA report, experts said there should be thousands of contact tracers working in Pennsylvania, rather than hundreds. New Jersey last week announced a statewide contact tracing initiative, and Philadelphia also has begun training sessions. But delays in scaling up are confounding, especially since both states and the city have long had contact tracing programs for other infectious diseases. Massachusetts has been allin on contact tracing since April 3; surely, New Jersey and Pennsylvania could have found the wherewithal to do so as well.

Contact tracing has helped Japan, Germany, and other countries keep infection and death rates from the coronavirus far lower than the U.S. The U.S. lacks a consistent plan; some states are succeeding with robust contact tracing, and others are facing challenges. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers some guidance, funding is available through the CARES Act, and in early April, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health released a national contact tracing plan that could serve as a larger blueprint.

But President Donald Trump's public statements about contact tracing have been erratic; the pandemic had barely begun when he claimed an administration plan for contact tracing already was a success. Other presidential remarks and tweets have sown confusion, as battles over wearing masks suggest.

Still, it is state leaders like Govs. Tom Wolf and Phil Murphy—and the health department leaders who report to them—who are accountable for the painfully slow expansion of contact tracing. Like their counterparts nation-

See CONTACT on Next Page



# Why Americans are having an emotional reaction to masks

hile Americans still have not adopted mask-wearing as a general norm, we're wearing masks more than ever before. Mask-wearing is mandated in California, and in many counties masks are near-universal in public spaces. So I have started wondering: Does wearing a mask change our social behavior and our emotional inclinations? And if mask-wearing does indeed change the fabric of our interactions, is that one reason why the masks are not more popular in the U.S.?

When no one can see our countenances, we may behave differently. One study found that children wearing Halloween masks were more likely to break the rules and take more candy. The anonymity conferred by masks may be making it easier for protestors to knock down so many statues.

And indeed, people have long used masks to achieve a kind of plausible deniability. At Carnival festivities around the world people wear masks, and this seems to encourage greater revelry, drunkenness, and lewd behavior, traits also associated with masked balls. The mask creates another persona. You can act a little more outrageously, knowing that your town or village, a few days later, will regard that as "a different you."

If we look to popular culture, mask-wearing is again associated with a kind of transgression. Batman, Robin and the Lone Ranger wear masks, not just to keep their true identities a secret, but to enable their "ordinary selves" to step into these larger-than-life roles.

But if we examine mask-wearing in the context of Covid-19, a different picture emerges. The mask is now a symbol of a particular kind of conformity, and a ritual of collective responsibility and discipline against the virus. The masks themselves might encourage this norm adherence by boosting the sense of group membership among the wearers.

The public health benefits of mask-wearing far exceed the social costs, but still if we want mask-wearing to be a stable norm we may need to protect against or at least recognize some of its secondary consequences, including the disorientations that masks can produce. Because mask-wearing norms seem weakest in many of the most open societies, such as the United States and United Kingdom, perhaps it is time to come to terms how masks rewrite how we react and respond to each other.

If nothing else, our smiles cannot be seen under our masks, and that makes social interactions feel more hostile and alienating, and it may lower immediate levels of trust in casual interac-

#### By TYLER COWEN

Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.



tions. There are plenty of negative, hostile claims about masks circulating, to the point of seeming crazy, but rather than just mocking them perhaps we need to recognize what has long been called "the paranoid style in American politics." If we admit that mask-wearing has a psychologically strange side, we might do better than simply to lecture the miscreants about their failings.

Just ask yourself a simple question: If someone tells you there is a new movie or TV show out, and everyone in the drama is wearing masks, do you tend to think that's a feel-good romantic comedy, or a scary movie? In essence, we are asking Americans to live in that scenario, but not quite giving them the psychological armor to do so successfully.

On the brighter side, I wonder if mask-wearing might diminish some expressions of intolerance. People who might feel that others are "looking at them funny" might find themselves with less to be offended by as masks obscure those micro-reactions. Common mask-wearing is already reportedly easing the public judgment experienced by Muslim women who wear face coverings in Western society; some Muslim women who wear the niqab report that they are no longer being given dirty looks, if only because they no longer stick out so much.

Women who cover their faces for religious reasons may now be ahead of the rest of us when it comes to effective communication—because they cannot rely as much their faces to convey emotion in public conversations, they report relying on more visible body language like waving and gesturing.

The tension of current mask policy is that it reflects a desire for a more obedient, ordered society, for public health purposes above all, but at the same time it creates incentives and inclinations for non-conformity. That is true at least within the context

See AMERICANS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immedi-

ately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Make masks accessories, not annoyances

just wear them? "Masking has become controversial. It shouldn't be," former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said on "Face the Nation." To health experts, masks seem like a simple, apolitical precaution. In medical jargon, they're personal protective equipment, or PPE, like surgeons' gowns, gloves and face screens. Nobody thinks a doctor, nurse or emergency medical technician is a coward for gearing up.

On the streets of everyday life, however, masks are something more. They aren't like safety glasses, life preserver vests, or seatbelts—special protection for a limited task in a specialized environment.

Masks are clothing. They cover your body and change how you appear to the world.

Once you understand masks as clothing, the controversy becomes entirely predictable. Clothes don't just protect us from the elements. They aren't purely functional. They provide pleasure and convey meaning. They tell the world, "I like that" and "I'm like that." They help us stand out as individuals and fit in with

Choosing your own clothes is a sign of autonomy and power. From toddlers to teens, kids fight their parents over what they wear. Iranian women brave the morality police by skirting veil requirements. School dress codes generate controversy after controversy.

From trouser-wearing feminists in the 1970s to calico prohibition in the 17th century, fashion history is full of people defying

Thy all the fuss about masks? Why won't people clothing regulation to assert their identities or indulge their tastes. The history of sumptuary laws, which banned luxury clothing or limited it to certain classes, is largely the story of people finding ways around the restrictions.

> In short, people hate being told what they must or cannot wear. That's as true for masks as it is for other garments. Mandates were bound to spark resistance. Ramping up enforcement will only intensify the pushback, and local police are wise not to make it a priority. Stopping mask scofflaws is just the sort of petty law enforcement that can lead to racially fraught harassment and abuse. When Joe Biden says he'd make mask wearing compulsory, he isn't thinking about what that means on the street.

> The good news is that people don't wear clothes because it's illegal not to (even though it is). They wear clothes to meet social expectations, express who they are, and add beauty, comfort and style to their everyday lives. To encourage mask-wearing, we need to tap into those instincts.

> Up to now, the primary weapon aside from legal requirements (and fear of Covid-19) has been shame. But, as epidemiologist Julia Marcus writes in the Atlantic, "trying to shame people into wearing condoms didn't work—and it won't work for masks either." Lecturing people about their clothing choices just makes them mad. Instead, Los Angeles Times writer Adam Tschorn suggests humorous public service ads featuring "Darth Vader, Bane from 'The Dark Knight Rises' and a cadre of Lucha Libre wrestlers playing it tough while urging guys to put on their own masks."

> Anthony Fauci had the right idea when he wore a Washington Nationals mask at a congressional hearing last week. He demon-

#### **By VIRGINIA POSTREL**

Bloomberg News

Virginia Postrel is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She was the editor of Reason magazine and a columnist for the Wall Street Journal, the Atlantic, The New York Times and Forbes. Her next book, The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World, will be published in November.



strated that masks don't have to be boring. They can express our passions. Instead of annoyances, they can be accessories.

Some people are already treating them that way. Black Lives Matter protesters have used "I Can't Breathe" masks to amplify their message. On the victory stand at Talladega Superspeedway on Monday, Nascar driver Ryan Blaney wore a design featuring race car images, and at an earlier race he displayed Star Wars imagery, including a prominent Darth Vader mask. Custom masks are popular among his fellow drivers. Some display team or sponsor logos, others patriotic imagery.

Blaney's masks probably came from Etsy. The online marketplace sold more than \$133 million in masks, or more than 12 million, in April—a number that has surely risen since then. Shops there offer styles ranging from colorful prints to Christian symbols to every sports team imaginable.

You can buy Trump 2020 masks, Make America Great Again designs, and masks that will make your lower face look like the

## Columbus statues need context, not disrespect and desecration

arlier in June, activists tore down a statue of Christopher Columbus outside the Minneapolis State Capitol. Mainstream media news coverage inevitably focused on the activists' view that Columbus was a racist villain, whose discovery of America led to the demise of native cultures. Few press reports acknowledged that the statue was erected by Italian American immigrants, themselves victims of discrimination, back in 1931 to celebrate both the man who discovered America as well as their own contributions to our coun-

#### **AMERICANS**

From Page 6

of American culture, admittedly an outlier, both for its paranoia and for its infatuation with popular culture. As a society, our public mask-wearing is thus at war with its own emotional leanings, because it is packaging together a message based on both disci-

What can we do to convince people that a mask-laden society, while it will feel weird and indeed be weird, can be made stable and beneficial through our own self-awareness? While there is no simple answer to that question, mask advocates should recognize that they have been treading into unusual cultural territory, and should not be surprised by unusual public responses

#### CONTACT

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wide, Wolf and Murphy were quick to seize on the notion of "armies" and "corps" of tracers. But nearly four months into the pandemic—Philadelphia's first known COVID-19 death was reported March 25—they are still in recruiting mode.

The phased reopening of business in Pennsylvania and New Jersey may provide relief for those who want to "get back to normal." But until the states fully deploy contact tracing—one of a handful of tools to prevent new infections—"normal" may be another way of saying "risky and dangerous."

(c)2020 The Philadelphia Inquirer

try. Nor did they note that an Italian immigrant who helped build Grand Central Station, and his son, sculpted the monument as a symbol of the acceptance of Italian immigrants in Minnesota.

Perhaps even worse, a law professor and criminologist, who is associated with an archaeological advocacy group, actually tweeted encouragement for the deed, suggesting that chains would be the best way to bring down this and similar statues. Presumably, given her position, she should know incitement of vandalism is not free speech. Nor does it have anything whatsoever to do with our First Amendment rights to protest peacefully.

Unlawful destruction of Columbus statues continues elsewhere throughout our country, notably in Boston's North End, near its own Little Italy. Of course, here in Baltimore three years ago, the nation's oldest statue to Columbus, an 18th century obelisk, was damaged by unknown vandals in the middle of the night.

Somehow in the storyline, Columbus and Confederate statues have been wrongly blended as co-equal symbols of a racist past as the nation grapples with the killing of George Floyd, an African American man, by a white Minneapolis police officer.

Does American history include painful periods of oppression against Indigenous peoples? Yes. However, atoning for past transgressions best occurs by honoring Indigenous peoples with their own commemorations, not by retributive anger and obliteration of Columbus statues.

How did we come to this point? As a former presidentially appointed trustee and general counsel of the congressionally chartered Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, which was created in 1992 on the 500th Anniversary of his discovery of America, and as an Italian American myself, I recognize Columbus as a man willing to take great risks in search of new worlds. Whatever his personal faults, without Columbus, there would be no United States, one of the relatively few countries in the world that guarantees the rights of individuals to petition their government peacefully through demonstrations.

Our foundation was committed to fostering community service through STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) grants to middle and high school students of all races. Perhaps, however, remedial instruction in history and critical thinking is what those younger members of our society responsible for top-

#### By ANTHONY C. WISNIEWSKI

The Baltimore Sun

Anthony C. Wisniewski (anthonywis@yahoo. com) is a Maryland resident and former trustee and general counsel Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation (2007-2017).



pling the statues representing our shared history need the most right now. How unfortunate is the double standard here: to raise awareness of historically oppressed populations, while simultaneously green lighting that it is still OK to marginalize Italian Americans as symbolized through their statue to the great Italian explorer. Archaeologists say context is everything, but for "woke" activists, any suggestion that a statue somehow represents a racist past alone is enough to prompt vandalism.

Educators \_ including law professors \_ have an obligation to teach our youth that our history and the contributions of those who have merited statues is far more complicated, rich and meaningful than assessments based solely on views about race. America did not become a great nation in spite of Columbus, but rather because he took high risks to introduce to the Americas positive aspects of Western civilization, the rule of law and the Gospel.

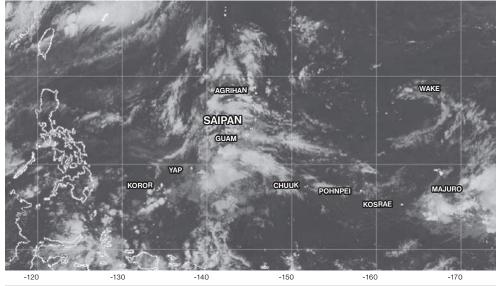
Of course, America has a racist past, and much has yet to be done, but statues of Columbus should also remind us of how the struggles of our historical heroes also helped make much of what is good in America today. Their memory should be treasured and respected or at least placed in the proper context of the time in which they lived, not reviled and desecrated.

Recently, when New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo was asked whether New York City's Columbus statue should be removed, he replied no, because it signifies appreciation for Italian American contributions. Here in Baltimore, we recently set a fine example of how to peacefully protest a horrific racial injustice. So too, may the citizens of Baltimore remain proud of Italian American contributions to our great state and ensure that our Christopher Columbus statues stand.

8 THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## The Weather

#### **5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN** SATURDAY MONDAY Partly sunny with Partly cloudy with Mostly cloudy with Partly cloudy with Partly cloudy with isolated showers isolated showers and East winds 10 to thunderstorms 15 mph 78° 880 880 **78º** 890 YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



#### PICTURE TIME: 7:16 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

An upper-level low is evident on satellite to the northeast of Rota. Cloudy skies with light rain prevail across Tinian and Saipan. Scattered to numerous showers are seen east of the Marianas. Gentle to moderate trade winds are seen across the islands, with occasional fresh winds over Tinian and Saipan. Buoys show seas between 3 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas

to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10. ■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or
- outdoor seating, if available, when dining in. ■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand,
- wash your hands before doing anything else. Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible
- Create a household plan of action, https://www. cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

#### **Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

#### **Know the signs and symptoms of** COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-guarantine
- ☐ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ☐ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

able, use an alcoholbased hand sanitizer. ☐ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth





of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, vishttps://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preventgetting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @ GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http:// www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

#### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices. press releases, and advisories from the Governor's CO-VID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESI	<b>▲</b> ▼°F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET			
Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM			
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM			
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM			
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM			
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM			

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:51 AM	4:00 PM
Friday	-	3:41 AM	5:01 PM
Saturday	-	4:35 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	-	5:32 AM	7:00 PM
Monday	-	6:30 AM	7:55 PM

<b>AROUND TH</b>	E GLOBE	<b>▲</b> ▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°
Beijing	Thunderstorm	86° / 70°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 74°
London	Showers	70° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	91° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorm	81° / 70°
Osaka	Rain	75° / 72°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 55°
Busan	Thunderstorm	79° / 70°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorm	87° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 68°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	86° / 72°

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
4:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.21
11:39 AM	LOW TIDE	0.02
6:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92
11:36 PM	LOW TIDE	1.34

#### FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES						AR	RIVALS	
SAIPAN	SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					(GUM)-SAIF	PAN	
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

#### STAR MARIANAS AIR. INC.

	•	JIAN	WANIA	IAS A	in, iii	<b>7</b> •	
SAIPAN	TO ROTA			1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily
FLIGHT # 1301.2 1303	DEPARTURE 8:30AM 3:30PM	ARRIVAL 9:00AM 4:00PM	FREQUENCY Tues/Fri Tues/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Unavailable Temporarily Unavailable
	0.00		1400/111	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO	SAIPAN			1210 1211	16:00 17:00	16:15 17:15	Daily Temporarily
FLIGHT # 3101.2 3103	DEPARTURE 9:30AM 4:30PM	ARRIVAL 10:00AM 5:00PM	FREQUENCY Tues/Fri Tues/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Unavailable Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO	O GUAM			TINIAN	TO SAIPAN		
FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #		ADDIVAI	FDFOLIENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	DEPARTURE 7:30	ARRIVAL 7:45	FREQUENCY Temporarily Unavailable
				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
<b>GUAM T</b>	O ROTA			2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily
	TO TINIAN						Unavailable
FLIGHT # 1201	DEPARTURE 7:00	ARRIVAL 7:15	FREQUENCY Temporarily	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
			Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	0100	15.00	1 . 4 .	Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110 2111	16:30 17:30	16:45 17:45	Daily Temporarily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily		17.00	17.70	Unavailable
			Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable				Unavailable



#### **NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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# Businesses stay nimble to respond to new challenges

By BEA CABRERA beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

It was in mid-March when local businesses started to revamp hours or temporarily close in compliance with Gov. Ralph Torres' executive order 2020-4 declaring a public health emergency and then the Second Amended Executive Order 02-04 in the CNMI due to COVID-19 concerns. Businesses that pressed on were in the utilities, restaurant, food and grocery businesses—all considered essentials—and these establishments made the community function despite the many limitations.

Three months later and with the low number of COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, the Commonwealth is now on "Level Blue," which is just a step away from the safest level, which is "Green." The new level indicates fewer restrictions but with health and safety precautions still in place. That has allowed some businesses to adapt and do business in a new, and safe, way.

Tom Yum Restaurant launched an online service on Facebook that makes it easier for customers to order their take-out food. Just look for "Tom Yum Restaurant On-Line Service" and add it to your network. The page informs customers of current menu



KRIZEL TUAZON

The KFC/ Taco Bell along Beach Road has been reconfigured for the safety of employees and customers.

choices, prices, and "once one is ready to order, they can place their orders online or phone it in," Tom Yum manager Natalia Gvan said.

They also now accept dinein via reservations. "We want to be accessible to our customers and be of service to them even in these times. We continue to do business and we are here to serve the same quality food," Gvan added.

The Shack Saipan has remained open since the start of the pandemic. The restaurant—akin to a highland bistro that specializes in French-style crepes and local cuisine—relies on the resiliency of the CNMI community. "...We have been through so much and we need to go back to our native mindset—one community made up of indi-

viduals that help one another," said owner Glen Hunter.

Saipan Mango Six Cafe temporarily closed for a month in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Owner Sun Moon Ahn said that he and his employees used those times researching how to solve the safety problems of customers and employees. "Noticing that the pandemic situation here on Saipan has been a little safer and controlled by the government, we considered the requests of many of our regular customers to open and that is why we are ready to serve once again," he said.

Buffet-style restaurants went creative and did takeout "bentos" (to-go-meals) instead. Spicy Thai restaurant manager Jean Bracken said that they never closed as they many residents have become friends and family. "When tough times come, it is important to help the people around us, even if it is just serving food. After Super Typhoon Yutu hit, we had a lot of people stop by to eat and use our generator to charge their electronics. We understand that this global pandemic has caused quite a big economic downturn, so to help our customers we try to provide quality food at an affordable price," Bracken added.

Another restaurant popular because of its buffet, Sura Saipan, did not close and has a line of bento meals, said general manager Michelle Park. "Whether it is a super typhoon or a pandemic, we are always here to serve our customers.... We currently have three bento menu options and the buffetstyle is suspended for now."

AC Pacific LLC president Alex B.K. Youn, who manages I Love Saipan stores and Star Sands Plaza, said that providing for the local community is always an important factor in their business portfolio. "...Our business is not making enough sales to meet the breakeven point, but we have the three stores open because we have to keep our employees on the payroll and, at the same time, give service to the community," he said.

Green Flash Dive Inc. a company that offers hydrotastic test and scuba diving and swimming lessons, gets many of its business from local divers right now. "...We have always been a business focused

on providing services to our local divers," said owner Rhea McDoulett. "We have been fortunate to serve local divers, as well as provide services to dive shops that need to have their equipment serviced while there are no customers. ... We have continued operations, except for a brief one-day pause when we understood there were no beaches open to the public," she added.

Many businesses that used to cater mainly to tourists like bed-and-breakfast places have opened their doors to residents, encouraging them to experience "staycations" at rates lower than their usual rates for tourists. QQ Car Rental, which is known for renting colorful, convertible Camaros, Jeeps, and trucks to tourists, is now offering reduced rental rates to residents.

At Everest Kitchen, it temporarily closed last March soon after the CNMI reported its first case of COVID-19. The management had the confidence to open again after all their employees tested negative for COVID-19, according to owner Laxmi Shrestha.

"While closed, we received a lot of calls, emails, and messages from our customers to open the restaurant. As soon as all our staff were able to get the COVID-19 test that gave negative results, we felt confident to open the restaurant without any risk to our staff and customers," she said.

A couple of new businesses opened despite the pandemic and its many restrictions. Friendly Plaza Supermarket owner and president James Burke opened the new plaza with a supermarket, laundromat, and car rental last June 2."I did not see the current circumstances as a hindrance and we remain to provide a variety of popular products for the public with friendly service."

On July 3, Paire' Corner, a gourmet and deli place on Tinian, will formally open. Operations manager and chef Rhea Backe said that they will not only be serving delicious food but also providing jobs to the Tinian community. "With this COVID-19 pandemic, students transitioning to college are looking for a source of income to support their education. We are grateful to be the bridge to achieve their goal, whether for college or career."

Many businesses like Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell, TanHoldings, Joeten, Great Harvest Bread Co., Monster Pizza, Puerto Rico Bento, and McDonald's have remained open, with some of them making donations to the community, particularly to the COVID-19 front-liners.

Joe Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's area supervisor for Guam and CNMI, said that he and his team are working hard to help McDonald's resume normal operations. "We are trying to do whatever is right for us and the customers, to [create a] safe and sanitized environment. ... The economy needs to open up because it is going to be hard for many people if we don't, but we need to get there the right way."

#### A look back and where are we now

#### MARCH 16

President Donald Trump declares a national emergency, opening access to up to \$50 billion in emergency relief funds to stop spread of COV-ID-19 in the Unites States and its territories.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs Executive Order 02-04 declaring the CNMI under State of Significant Emergency and a State of Public Health Emergency.

#### MARCH 24

All businesses are to operate or open facilities from 6am to 1pm and public to adhere to social distancing practices.

#### MARCH 26

First batch of 14 inbound passengers underwent 14-day mandatory quarantine at Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

#### MARCH 28

Grocery stores and retail establishments' operating hours revised to 6am to 6pm and allowed at 50% capacity.

#### **MARCH 30**

Two test positive in the CNMI involving a 42-year-old male and a 49-year-old female.

First COVID19 death in the

CNMI was a 70-year-old man who was in quarantine at Kanoa Resort.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres orders a 7pm curfew for everybody.

#### **APRIL 6**

Beaches and pathways, docks and ramps are reopened from 6am to 6pm

#### APRIL 7

Second COVID-19 death in the CNMI involved a 77-yearold woman

#### **APRIL 10**

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. starts building field hospital at the upper level parking lot of the hospital, to be used in case of a spike in the number of COVID-19 patients in the CNMI.

#### **APRIL 14**

11 COVID-19 cases, with eight in stable condition, one hospitalized at CHC, and two deaths

#### **APRIL 15**

20,000 COVID-19 test kits ordered from South Korea arrive.

#### **APRIL 17**

CHCC announces possibility of free mass testing in the CNMI

#### **APRIL 18**

14 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, including nine recoveries and two deaths.

#### **APRIL 22**

More medical supplies arrive from Long Beach, California. Medical field hospital at CHCC is now called "Medical Care and Treatment Site."

#### APRIL 25

Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC opens schedule to the public to get COVID-19 free mass testing.

#### **APRIL 29**

CNMI had zero COVID-19 case after last individual who tested positive has recovered and was released from Kanoa Resort.

#### **APRIL 30**

Less than three days after the start of mass testing, a total of 224 individuals have already undergone testing in the CNMI.

#### MAY 2

United Airlines resumes Guam to Saipan flights.

#### MAY 4

948 persons have undergone

community based-testing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Curfew (from 7pm to 6am) is eased to 10pm to 5am.

#### MAY 7

New COVID-19 case involving a 17-year old male, identified as a result of contract tracing, raising the number of CNMI cases to 15.

#### **MAY 12**

Three new COVID-19 cases involving three males—19, 15, and 27 years old, asymptomatic and contacts of previously diagnosed COVID-19 cases in the CNMI. So far, a total of 19 cases, five active cases, 12 recoveries, and two deaths.

#### **MAY 14**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announces proposed July 15 target to reopen the CNMI to tourists

#### **MAY 18**

Two new COVID-19 cases involving two males—22 and 31 years old—identified through contract tracing. CNMI numbers up to 21, with seven active cases, 12 recoveries, and two deaths.

#### **MAY 19**

Mass testing starts on Rota

at the Benjamin T. Manglona Airport and on Tinian at the Tinian Health Center.

CNMI efforts to flatten the curve remains strong as there are only 21 cases of COVID-19 since March.

#### **MAY 22**

**MAY 20** 

One more tests positive involving a 27-year-old female contact of a previously diagnosed COVID-19 case in the CNMI. This raised the CNMI's total to 22.

The U.S. Small Business Administration approved \$34,902.12 loan under Paycheck Protection Program Aid in the CNMI.

#### **MAY 24**

CNMI government offices open to the public and operating under regular hours.

#### **MAY 26**

CNMI declared under "Level Yellow"—partial restaurant service open, curfew hours from 11pm to 5am and business hours from 5am to 10pm

#### **MAY 28**

10% of Saipan's population has undergone free mass testing at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport.

#### JUNE 3

One tests positive for CO-VID-19, identified as a female passenger on the May 28 United Airlines flight from Guam that originated from the U.S. mainland. CNMI total now at 23.

#### JUNE 5

Three new cases add to the COVID-19 roster, now up at 26, with eight active cases, 16 recoveries, and two deaths.

#### JUNE 8

A passenger from the May 28 United Airlines flight from Guam test positive for CO-VID-19, raising the CNMI's COVID-19 cases to 27

#### JUNE 9

One passenger at quarantine site tests positive, boosting the CNMI's COVID-19 cases to 27

#### JUNE 10

Two more test positive. The CNMI now has a total of 30 COVID-19 cases.

#### **JUNE 15**

Community testing leaves its original site, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, to transition to villages to target community members with limited transpor-

See A LOOK on Next Page

to flights, whether return-

ing residents or tourists. At

this level, the COVID-19 Task

Force is expected to ready all

mitigation measures in antic-

ipation of the reinvigoration

forward to moving to Level

Green, which is the safest.

"Of course, I am looking

of the tourism industry.

## Life at 'Level Blue'

By BEA CABRERA beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

A few days after the World Health Organization announced that the COVID-19 outbreak is a pandemic, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared the CNMI on March 16 under a State of Significant Emergency and a state of Public Health, in order to protect the health and safety of CNMI residents, businesses, and visitors.

Arlene Mafnas of Kagman said she found it a scary time "because suddenly everything was uncertain and we didn't know if the virus has reached the islands already. If you are scared, you tend to follow rules needed to secure you and your family's safety so even If I didn't entirely understand was what going on, I stocked up on food and medicine and stayed home."

Since then, the CNMI has seen many changes—in the way people shop for food, eat out, in being in public, etc., from restrictions in movement and standard practice, to precautionary measures such as wearing face masks and keeping at least 6 feet away from other people. Then the CNMI government implemented a five-color-coding scheme called Com-

munity Vulnerability, ranging from the highest, which is red, to green, which is the safest, to communicate to the public the current level of the CNMI's vulnerability to COVID-19.

"The color scheme wasn't introduced to the community until it was announced we were in 'Level Yellow' and now 'Blue'. The community vulnerability colors [enable] a regular person like me [to] have a clearer picture where the CNMI is currently and is able to respond properly,"Mafnas added.

"Level Blue" means a partial resumption of international flights, increased building occupancy to allow establishments to open up to 75% of their original capacity, curfew is now from 12am to at 4am, partial restaurant and bar operations are now permitted at 50% of their originally permitted occupancy limit, and dine-in customers are allowed. All these still require establishments to enforce social distancing precautions and promote the wearing of face masks, in accordance with Bureau of Environmental Health rules.

Life at "Level Blue" is a being looked at as a time to acclimatize the CNMI to the opening up its borders

#### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- OrangeYellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

It sounds like 'Green' represents the kind of lifestyle we had before the pandemic but I also know that [that isn't] so. This huge shift in our lives has affected families, employees, businesses and children and, while we think we can go back to the way thing used to be, will many of us be able to say that after being terminated or furloughed or evicted out of your apartment?" said pilot Rick Markham.

"I think living the new

normal entails still wearing masks, observing proper hygiene whether at home or in public, and social distancing until we have a vaccine. Personally, the new normal requires us not to be complacent because even if we have a few cases here on island compared to other parts of the world, we can't be blindsided and throw away the chance that we had it good here when this pandemic started," Markham added.

# Drive-Thru OPEN for Dine-in, Drive thru & Take out services Pick-Up Dine In

#### **A LOOK**

From Page 10

tation and for workers who cannot leave work.

The CNMI moves to Level Blue, which now allows 75% occupancy, beach group gathering of 15 people, and curfew is adjusted from 12am to 4am.

#### **JUNE 17**

CHCC removes "recoveries" from

its dashboard of daily counts.

#### **JUNE 22**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that the CNMI has enough PPEs on hand to last it several months.

#### **JUNE 29**

COVID-19 cases on Saipan at 30, with active cases down to one and two deaths.

"Level Blue" in force. (**Bea Cabrera**)



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## Brabu Pharmacy: We can never close

**BV BEA CABRERA** 

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

In the face of a raging CO-VID-19 pandemic, Brabu Pharmacy has remained true to its commitment to have the medicine the community needs, while staying vigilant about safety and health protocols. Now on its 11th year of service, your Brabu Pharmacy team is united more than ever to prioritize patients and their needs.

"We can never close and I really give my staff a lot of credit. They knew what they were signing up for and the people who have been here depending on the business for a long time. During one of our pep talks, we all agreed



From left, Rafferty Dris, Robby Taman, Ted Parker, Lila Calvo, Erica Leon Guerrero, Theresa Zheng, and Ruella Ichuio. BEA CABRERA

that we are going to take care of all of our patients in preparation when the virus

reaches the Marianas," said pharmacy owner Ted Parker He said that temporarily closing the pharmacy was never an option "as this is what we have to do," while taking as many precautionary measures as they can.

Brabu sales representative Robby John A. Taman said that Ted and Kathy Parker were closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in the U.S. mainland and the possible effects it will have in the CNMI. "They already knew that it would reach Saipan at some point and we had safety measures in our stores planned out so we were expecting it and were just waiting for the day when it will come. We had initial measures in place before Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres released the directives," he said.

Phone: (670) 233-2668 (AMOT)

"The first month was really hectic. There was an overflow of workload as our patients tripled and there was a fear in the community that all pharmacies on island will run out of medicine and insurance companies will run out of coverage. At Brabu, we are glad we never experienced those and the companies that we worked with never left their clients hanging. ... We made sure that we have a good supply for patients every month," he added.

In terms of service, Brabu Pharmacy has broadened their efficiency. They deliver medicine to homes and businesses, created a drive-thru option or "Express Tent" for people who don't want to go inside the store, especially the elderly, and their other branches at MH2 Puerto Rico and Kagman are now open.

"We always extend our service, whether it is prescription or non-prescription medicine. ... The tent outside helps us limit the number of people inside the store as we continuously monitor the touch points such as pens, counters and door knobs. We want to make sure that they are sanitized, keeping them clean and safe so we can continue to provide Brabu service to all customers," Taman said.

He said they created the "Express Tent" outside the pharmacy so customers can call Brabu in advance about the medicine or items they need and a pharmacy staff will assist the customer outside and the whole transaction only takes three to five minutes. "This allows us to bring the items straight to

**Continued on Next Page** 







Brabu Pharmacy continues to disinfect touch points such as cashier areas, pens, and door knobs.

health care advice always.

One of the reasons why we

made Brabu safe is that many

people right now just stay

at home but if they know

that the environment here is

safe, they will keep coming,"

Customer service is a huge

deal at Brabu Pharmacy, ac-

cording to cashier Shianne

Agulto. "I have made a few

friends just tending to pa-

tients. There are some peo-

ple who are open to making

friends, [while] some people

just come to get what they

what they need. Either way,

we try to engage so they

will always feel comfortable

whenever they are here,"

she added.

#### Continued from Page 12

your car, instead of you having to come in to the store," Taman added.

Pharmacy technician Lila Mailman said that going to work everyday may entail a little more risk but Brabu Pharmacy is making it safe for employees and patients. "It was overwhelming in the beginning but it was like after Super Typhoon Yutu. We kept our head down and continued working. ... We take it day by day. We do our best and we try not to get flustered."

"We don't want anyone to go without medicine and we

Parker stressed that the community can never let its guard down during this pandemic, no matter how many COVID-19 cases are here. "I see a lot of people becoming cavalier, starting to not do the social distancing and other safety protocols. Look

at the U.S. mainland. [It is not] only the elderly [that] are affected but even the young ones now. We have to stay vigilant and never let our guard down until we get through this," he said.

"In the event a vaccine becomes available, I imagine

the hospital will be quick to get the vaccination because it is their job. But as soon that will be available to outside places, Brabu Pharmacy will be happy to get it," he added.

Brabu Pharmacy Gualo Rai is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm, with telephone number (670) 233-2668. Brabu Pharmacy at MH Il Branch is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 12pm, (670) 322-4898, and Brabu Pharmacy Kagman Branch (next to Ling Lin Market) is open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, (670) 256-2668.

## CIC

## **Get protected now!**





## CNMI businesses upbeat about full recovery

By BEA CABRERA beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com CORRESPONDENT

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to rage across much of the globe, the CNMI business community is slowly picking up the pieces and trying to fashion seminormal operations in the face of new challenges. The ones that didn't close are holding up and the ones that temporarily closed are opening one by one—not only to generate income for the CNMI but also to provide food on the table for families of workers and employees.

For a place that has seen its share of devastating typhoons and economic upheavals, the CNMI still finds itself in uncharted territory. "The difference between super typhoons and this pandemic is, with the former, we already know what is going to happen. Since we experienced it a couple of times in our lifetime, there is some kind of certainty. But with the pandemic, you have different developments every day and, when there is uncertainty, people tend to become fearful," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios.

With businesses getting



back to their feet and trying to retrofit the business for health and safety reasons, the focus this time, Palacios said, is the safety of both employees and customers. With the CNMI's Community Vulnerability Level now at "Blue" (one step away from the safest level of "Green), Palacios said that most businesses are still trying to return

to their routine and working on their loans, whether it is the Paycheck Protection Program or Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

"I am looking forward to

reach 'Level Green,' where businesses can be operational just like pre-COVID-19. ... In order to achieve that, I personally think that strengthening the domestic business

Gov. Ralph Torres joins the Marianas Visitors Authority board at a meeting recently at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

scene should be a priority...," she said. "I know there are some businesses that are contemplating whether to open or not and wait for the tourists to come. ... There are still a lot of things to be done and for us to welcome back tourists smoothly and safely, we have to work with the governments where we get our tourists from."

Tourism is the lifeblood of the CNMI and, with no flights and tourists coming in, the government is looking for other ways to sell the Marianas as a tourist destination. With many people itchy to travel after quarantine, many tourist destinations will compete for this market.

At a Marianas Visitors Authority board meeting recently that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joined briefly, he raised the idea of rebranding the CNMI to attract high-end tourists. "How do we rebrand the Marianas? Where do we go from here? Our vision moving forward [is to] push eco-tourism," he said.

See CNMI on Next Page



#### **CNMI**

From Page 15

Toward this end, the CNMI has contracted the help of YouTube influencer Robert Arrington, whose channel has 2.31 million fans, to promote Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. "He will spend a few months here, promote the Marianas and go to every tourist site to make sure the world will know what we have here. ... This is the best opportunity for us to attract high-end tourists to appreciate what we have here," Torres said.

MVA director Jerry Tan also pushed the idea of destination enhancement, with most of Saipan's tourists being repeaters. "Now is the best time to take care of our tourist sites while there are no tourists around clean sites and fix broken restrooms and rails on those sites. ... We should... try fix as much as we can so when the tourists finally come back, for first-timers that would be a great but for a repeater, the enhancements would be a pleasant surprise," he said.

"Again, in going after the high-end market, we have to emphasize quality over quantity. ...The opportunity to promote the Northern Islands



BEA CABRERA

"I think that's one of the great things here [is] we follow the guidelines and we take it seriously," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios.

will attract tourists who are willing to pay lots of money to go there for an adventure. ...Palau's monthly arrivals sta-

tistics have Europeans and we hope to get that market too. ...Rebranding will be helpful to the three islands and the

Northern Islands," he added.

MVA board director Chris Nelson also raised the suggestion of building outdoor showers at popular beach sites. "That will be a quick win for us and...we are not talking of a lot of money to do that.... I think beach showers would be good for locals and tourists, where fresh water is available so parents can clean up their kids and tourists can also clean up before they get into their cars," he said.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh said the CNMI should make itself ready as far as making it "the" destination to go, "...provided protocols are set" by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force, which are being worked on by all partners.

"A big challenge, of course, is the mandatory quarantine for both the CNMI as well as the source market," she added.

To date, only three hotels are operational on the islands in terms of accommodations: Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio and Kanoa Resort in Susupe are being used as quarantine sites while Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan is accepting room reservations only for Federal Emergency Management Agency officers and personnel and several contractors.

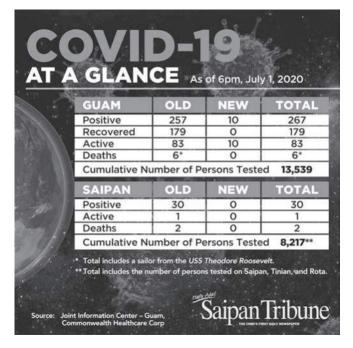
'We are fighters and that's the great thing about the community. Everybody still comes together, just like any disaster and now a pandemic. I think that's one of

the great things here—we follow the guidelines and we take it seriously.'
— Saipan Chamber of Commerce president **Velma Palacios** 

Restaurants are slowly opening for take-out and dine-in services but on limited hours like Hyatt, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Aqua Resort Saipan, and the soon-to-open Ohas Café at Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Palacios is optimistic, describing the CNMI busi-

ness community as fighters. "We are fighters and that's the great thing about the community. Everybody still comes together, just like any disaster and now a pandemic. I think that's one of the great things here—we follow the guidelines and we take it seriously," she added.





# LIVE WELL UV disinfecting systems for Air, Surfaces and Water.

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Our Company is the exclusive representative of American Ultraviolet UV. Since 1960, this company has installed over 100,000 systems worldwide in Healthcare, HVAC, Food and Beverage Industries, where UV-C light is used to disinfect air, surfaces and liquids. All product is Made in U.S.A.

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Within 15-20 minutes, UV-C light fixtures can disinfect an area of 300 square feet with 99% disinfections levels. UV-C bulbs last between 8,000 to 12,000 hours and the only operating cost is power. If you use the bulbs for 1 hour per day, over the life time of the bulbs, this is less than \$.29 per day.

UV-C light can be used in schools, offices, sales counters, lobbies, waiting rooms, hotel rooms, restaurants, cars, buses, ambulances and medical offices.

UV-C fixture above the cashier counter could disinfect the entire area in minutes at end of day or beginning of date. This way, both the employees and customers have added safety and protection against potential infection. No residual chemical buildup on surfaces, no odor or chemical smell, it's high energy sunlight.

UV-C light does not affect electronics, food, paper, plastic and will not cause skin cancer like sunlight (UV-A) with prolong exposure.

No need to buy costly liquid disinfecting agents or use additional staff time to clean. Published reports point out that hand wiping only disinfects 62% of the surfaces to be cleaned. Reinforce and supplement your normal cleaning routine but add additional assurance with UV-C light.





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## **Business**

# Have a stancation treat at



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS** 

At Secret Garden Saipan, all rooms have an ocean view of Lau Lau Bay, allowing guests to watch the sunrise right from the comfort of their own bed.

#### By BEA CABRERA

beacabrersaipan@gmail.com

Imagine soaking in a hot tub or siting on your own private patio with a book or a glass of wine while enjoying the breeze from Lau Lau Bay at the picturesque east coast of Saipan.

These relaxing thoughts will definitely make you declare your own vacation and Secret Garden Saipan, located on Millionaire Acres along Railroad Road in Papago, will definitely take you there.

Mimi Zhang opened Secret Garden Saipan over a year ago and her goal was to offer a peaceful sanctuary overlooking the ocean. "Secret Garden is a private guest house and as guests approach Secret Garden, we want them to feel you have left all your worries behind and have a relaxing escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life as you gaze down upon the beautiful, untouched expanse of Lau Lau Bay," she said.

"We are located at what people call the Millionaire Acres in Papago and Secret Garden Saipan lives up to that name because of the magnificent million dollar views from our guest rooms...A true paradise situated

panoramic blue ocean and this is one of the reasons why

we are called Secret Garden," she added.

For local residents, your stay is only \$100 for a room with breakfast and only \$89 without breakfast. "We have six spacious guest rooms and all rooms have the spectacular ocean view as well as the upstairs communal room and deck. Our amenities include



Guests can enjoy a private entrance and key to their clean and relaxing rooms.



Have a relaxing bath after a tiring day overlooking beautiful Lau

WiFi in all rooms, air-conditioning, towels, hairdryer, and

For more information,

call (670)588-8520

"Other special features of Secret Garden Saipan are all

rooms have a private entrance and key and the high clear glass windows at the bathroom gives you a view of the ocean and makes you hear the ocean waves break on the reef below as you bathe...Guests will find this place an instant vacation without having to leave Saipan," Zhang added.

Secret Garden Saipan's

other facilities include use of kitchen, barbecue facilities on toiletries that includes design- two separate patios, parking, er shampoo, conditioner, and a beautiful Narra wood pool table at the communal living room, two long outdoor patio decks, use of comfortable hammock overlooking the ocean and 24-hour friendly inhouse personal care.

"We aspire for guests to feel relaxed and have that sense of peace after their stay... We are always open. Check-in time is at 3pm and check-out is at 12noon," Zhang said.

For more information, call (670)588-8520 or visit their Facebook page: Secret Garden Saipan.

## Nation

## Republicans, with exception of Trump, now push mask-wearing

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In tive media. Republican circles—with the notable exception of the man who leads the party—the debate about masks is over: It's time to put one on.

As a surge of infections hammers the South and West, GOP officials are pushing back against the notion that masks are about politics, as President Donald Trump suggests, and telling Americans they can help save lives.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, a Tennessee Republican, on Tuesday bluntly called on Trump to start wearing a mask, at least some of the time, to set a good example.

"Unfortunately, this simple, lifesaving practice has become part of a political debate that says: If you're for Trump, you don't wear a mask. If you're against Trump, you do," Alexander said.

It's a rare break for Republicans from Trump, who earlier this month told the Wall Street Journal that some people wear masks simply to show that they disapprove of him. And the Republican nudges for the public—and the president to embrace mask-wearing are coming from all corners of Trump's party and even from friendly conserva-

Both Vice President Mike Pence and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in recent days have urged Americans to wear one when they are unable to maintain social distance. Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican, told reporters it would be "very helpful" for Trump to encourage mask usage.

"Put on a mask—it's not complicated," McConnell, R-Ky., urged Americans during his weekly news conference Tuesday.

Last week, Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming tweeted a photo of her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, wearing a disposable mask and a cowboy hat. She included the message: "Dick Cheney says WEAR A MASK #realmenwearmasks," a hashtag that echoed words spoken earlier by the Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Steve Doocy, co-host of a Trump-friendly morning show, "Fox & Friends," said during an interview with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy that he doesn't "see any downside in the president being seen more often wearing it."

McCarthy, R-Calif., responded that, for the upcoming holiday, "we could all show our patriotism with a red, white and blue mask."

Jacksonville, the Florida city where Trump is scheduled to accept his renomination as Republicans' presidential candidate in August, announced a mask requirement for indoor public spaces this week. The president's eldest son said the new requirements were no big deal.

"You know, I don't think that it's too complicated to wear a mask or wash your hands and follow basic hygiene protocols," Donald Trump Jr. told Fox Business on Tuesday.

Trump aides have defended the president's refusal to wear a mask by noting that he is regularly tested for the coronavirus, as are his aides. Those outside the administration—including White House visitors and members of the media who are in close proximity to him and Pence—are also tested.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany didn't directly address Republican calls for Trump to wear a mask in public more often, but noted that the president has said in the past he has no problem wearing one when necessary.

## Trump's two Russias confound coherent US policy

WASHINGTON (AP)— When it comes to Russia, the Trump administration just can't seem to make up its mind.

For the past three years, the administration has careered between President Donald Trump's attempts to curry favor and friendship with Vladimir Putin and longstanding deep-seated concerns about Putin's intentions. As Trump has repeatedly and openly cozied up to Putin, his administration has imposed harsh and meaningful sanctions and penalties on Russia.

The dizzying, often contradictory, paths followed by Trump on the one hand and his hawkish but constantly changing cast of national security aides on the other have created confusion in Congress and among allies and enemies alike. To an observer, Russia is at once a mortal enemy and a misunderstood friend in U.S. eyes.

Even before Trump took office questions about Russia abounded. Now, nearing

the end of his first term with a difficult reelection ahead, those questions have resurfaced with a vengeance. Intelligence suggesting Russia was encouraging attacks on U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan by putting bounties on their heads has thrust the matter into the heart of the 2020 campaign.

The White House says the intelligence wasn't confirmed or brought to Trump's attention, but his vast chorus of critics are skeptical and maintain the president should have

The reports have alarmed even pro-Trump Republicans who see Russia as a hostile global foe meddling with nefarious intent in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Ukraine and Georgia, a waning former superpower trying to regain its Soviet-era influence by subverting democracy in Europe and the United States with disinformation and election interference.

Trump's overtures to Putin have unsettled longstanding U.S. allies in Europe, including Britain, France and Germany, which have expressed concern about the U.S. commitment to the NATO alliance, which was forged to counter the Soviet threat, and robust democracy on the continent.

But Trump has defended his perspective on Russia, viewing it as a misunderstood potential friend, a valued World War II ally led by a wily, benevolent authoritarian who actually may share American values, like the importance of patriotism, family and religion.

Trump's approach to Russia was at center stage in the impeachment proceedings, when U.S. officials testified that the president demanded political favors from Ukraine in return for military assistance it needed to combat Russian aggression. But the issue ended up as a largely partisan exercise, with House Democrats voting to impeach Trump and Senate Republicans voting to acquit.

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## Asia

# HK leaders says Beijing security law 'necessary'

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Hong Kong's leader strongly endorsed the new security law China's central government is imposing on the semi-autonomous territory in her speech marking Wednesday's anniversary of its handover from colonial Britain.

"This decision was necessary and timely to maintain Hong Kong's stability," Carrie Lam said following a flag raising ceremony and the playing of China's national anthem.

A pro-democracy political party, The League of Social Democrats, organized a protest march during the flagraising ceremony preceding Lam's speech. About a dozen participants chanted slogans echoing demands from protesters last year for political reform and an investigation into accusation of police abuse.

The law's passage Tuesday further blurs the distinction between the legal systems of semi-autonomous Hong Kong, which maintained aspects of British law after the 1997 handover, and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system. Critics say the law effectively ends the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong was promised a high degree of autonomy.

The law directly targets some of the actions of antigovernment protesters last year, which included attacks on government offices and police stations, damage to subway stations, and the shutdown of the city's international airport. Acts of vandalism against government facilities or public transit can be prosecuted as subversion or terrorism, while anyone taking part in activities deemed as secessionist would also be in violation of the new law.

The law takes immediate effect and its consequences could come swiftly. Hong Kong's police force issued a statement saying they would consider as illegal any flag or banner raised by protesters deemed to be promoting Hong Kong's separation from China or expressing support for independence for Tibet, Xinjiang and the selfgoverning island democracy of Taiwan that China claims as its own.

Concerns have also been raised over the fate of key opposition figures, some of whom have already been charged for taking part in protests, as well as the disqualification of candidates for the Legislative Council elections scheduled for September.

Under the law, those found guilty of inciting secessionist, subversive, terrorist activities and colluding with foreign forces could face life imprisonment if they such activities.

Schools, social groups, media outlets, websites and others unspecified will be monitored and their national security awareness will be raised, according to the text, while China's central government will have authority over the activities of foreign non-governmental organizations and media outlets in Hong Kong.

It says central government bodies in Hong Kong will take over in "complicated cases" and when there is a serious threat to national security. Local authorities are barred from interfering with central government bodies operating in Hong Kong while they are carrying out their duties, according to the text.

The legislation was mandated under Hong Kong's local constitution but an earlier attempt to pass it in the city's legislative body in 2003 was shelved in the face of massive public opposition. Having lost patience, Beijing finally decided to circumvent the Hong Kong legislature and have it passed Tuesday by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's rubberstamp parliament.

President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order putting the law into effect and it has been added to the Basic Law, are deemed masterminds of Hong Kong's constitution.

## PH extends lockdown in central city

MANILA, **Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine president has retained a strict lockdown in a central city he described as a new coronavirus hot spot, while the capital and the rest of the country were placed in lighter quarantines.

President Rodrigo Duterte the announcement Tuesday night on TV, further stretching three-month lockdowns and quarantines that officials call successful but his critics describe as ridden with failures and confusion.

The Philippines has among the most COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia with more than 37,500 people infected, including 1,266 who have died.

Duterte blamed Cebu city, which will remain under a lockdown up to July 15, for many violations of the rules that led to infection spikes.

"Cebu is now the hot spot for COVID. Why? Many of you did not follow. So don't get mad at me," he said.

The Philippines shut down most businesses in March but has reopened the economy recently as unemployment soared and massive government funds dwindled for cash and food aid for the poor.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ South Korea is considering listing religious facilities with nightclubs, hostess bars and karaoke rooms as "high risk" venues for the spread of COVID-19 following a slew of transmissions tied to church gatherings. Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said Wednesday more than 40% of the country's newly confirmed infections over the previous three days were traced to places of worship. He pleaded people to refrain from religious gatherings and criticized churches and other facilities

for failing to use proper prevention measures. High-risk facilities are advised to close or otherwise must enforce anti-virus measures and register visitors with smartphone QR codes so virus carriers can be tracked.

■ China reported just three new cases Wednesday, all in the capital Beijing where an outbreak last month appears to have run its course amid intense testing and case tracing. No new deaths were reported, leaving the toll at 4,634 among 83,534 cases of CO-VID-19 recorded since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year. With 328 cases reported since June 11, Beijing has reinstated some prevention measures, suspended classes for schoolchildren and carried out 8.3 million virus tests among the city's more than 20 million residents.

## World

## **Security Council trying again** for first COVID-19 resolution

UNITED **NATIONS** (AP)—The U.N. Security Council is trying again to reach agreement on its first resolution on COVID-19 since the coronavirus started circling the global in February, after a lengthy dispute between the U.S. and China over mentioning the World Health Organization.

A revised draft resolution by France and China was submitted for a vote Tuesday and the result is expected to be announced on Wednesday.

The draft resolution backs Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' March 23 call for global cease-fires to tackle the pandemic, and demands an "immediate cessation of hostilities" in all conflicts on its agenda including Syria, Yemen, Libya, South Sudan and Congo.

It calls on all warring parties "to engage immediately in a durable humanitarian pause for at least 90 consecutive days" to enable the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid and medical evacuations.

The draft resolution states that these measures do not apply to military operations against the Islamic State and al-Qaida extremist groups and their affiliates.

Guterres told a press con-



In this Feb. 18, 2020, file photo, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Lahore, Pakistan.

ference last Thursday that his appeal for a global ceasefire has been endorsed by nearly 180 countries, more than 20 armed groups, religious leaders and millions of members of civil society.

"The difficulty is to implement it," he said.

secretary-general The, said he and U.N. envoys are working together "to establish effective cease-fires and doing everything possible to overcome the legacy of longlasting conflicts with deep mistrust among the parties and spoilers with a vested interest in disruption."

Repeated attempts to adopt a Security Council resolution have been stymied over a reference to the World Health Organization.

President Donald Trump suspended funding to WHO in early April, accusing the U.N. health agency of failing to stop the virus from spreading when it first surfaced in China. He said it "must be held accountable," and accused WHO of parroting Beijing.

China strongly supports WHO and insisted that its role in calling for global action on COVID-19 be included in any resolution, diplomats said, while the U.S. insisted on a reference to "transparency" on CO-VID-19 and no mention of the WHO.

#### Pompeo urges UN arms embargo on Iran's `terrorist regime'

UNITED **NATIONS** (AP)—Calling Iran world's most heinous terrorist regime," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday to extend the U.N. arms embargo against Tehran, which expires in

October, and reject "extor-

tion diplomacy.'

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif countered calling President Donald Trump's administration "an outlaw bully" that is waging "economic terrorism" on his country to satisfy domestic constituencies and "personal aggrandizement."

He called for the U.S. to compensate the Iranian people for the damage and vehemently opposed any extension of the arms embargo, warning that Iran's options "will be firm" if it is maintained and the U.S. will bear full responsibility.

The United States has circulated a draft Security Council resolution to extend the arms embargo indefinitely, and Pompeo said the United States' "overwhelming preference" is to work with its 15 members to adopt it.

But he indicated that if the resolution isn't approved, which is likely because of Russian and Chinese opposition, the U.S. will move to invoke a provision of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers to re-impose all U.N. sanctions against Iran. The Trump administration pulled out of the deal in 2018.

Pompeo spoke at a virtual open meeting of the council on implementation of resolution 2231, which was adopted in 2015 to endorse the Iran nuclear deal. The arms embargo is included in the measure.

Zarif told the council later that the U.S. violated all provisions of the deal by its withdrawal and insisted that the arms embargo be lifted completely on its Oct. 18 expiration date. "Any attempt to change or amend the timetable" for lifting the embargo is tantamount to undermining the entire resolution, he said.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Moscow opposes "blessing" the U.S. maximum pressure policy through the arms embargo resolution. He called it a "maximum suffocation" policy aimed at regime change or creating "a situation where Iran literally wouldn't be able to breathe," adding in an illusion to the death of George Floyd by a white policeman in Minnesota: "This is like putting a knee on one's neck."

"It is obvious that the ultimate goal is to antagonize Iran and push it to radical retaliation, which will become an invitation for further sanctions," Nebenzia said.

China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun also opposed extending the arms embargo saying having quit the nuclear agreement the U.S. is no longer a participant and "has no right to trigger" the socalled snap-back provision in the resolution to re-impose U.N. sanctions.

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## Life & Style

## Judge temporarily blocks tell-all book by Trump's niece

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Distribution of a tell-all book by President Donald Trump's niece was blocked by a judge Tuesday after the president's brother said its publication would violate a pact among family members, but a publisher's chief executive says the book has already been shipped and could not be stopped.

New York state Supreme Court Judge Hal B. Greenwald in Poughkeepsie, New York, issued an order requiring the niece, Mary Trump, and her publisher to explain why they should not be blocked from publishing the book: "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man." A hear-

death

causes

ing was set for July 10.

The book, scheduled to be published July 28, was written by Mary Trump, the daughter of Fred Trump Jr., the president's elder brother, who died in 1981. An online description of it says it reveals "a nightmare of traumas, destructive relationships, and a tragic combination of neglect and abuse."

The judge said no portion of the book can be distributed before he decides the validity of Robert Trump's claims. Robert Trump argues Mary Trump must comply with a written agreement among family members that such a book cannot be published without permission from other family members.

Mary Trump's lawyer, The-

odore J. Boutrous Jr., and her publisher, Simon & Schuster, immediately challenged the order. Hours later, Simon & Schuster Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Karp said in court papers that the publisher was unaware of allegations of any agreement between Mary Trump and her family until two weeks ago.

"To take the unprecedented

action of enjoining the publication of this Book, even temporarily, would interfere with Simon & Schuster's constitutionally protected rights and its mission to inform the American public about newsworthy topics," he said. "It would also interfere with Simon & Schuster's readers' constitutionally protected rights to receive newsworthy reporting."

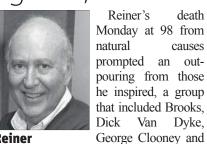
## Carl Reiner, comedy's rare untortured genius, dies at 98

(AP)—No one in the world of comedy was more admired, and loved, than Carl Reiner.

Reiner was the rare untortured genius of comedy, his career Reiner a story of laughter

and camaraderie, of innovation and triumph and affection. His persona was so warm and approachable—everyone's friend or favorite uncle—that you could forget that he was an architect of modern comedy, a "North Star," in the words of Billy Crystal.

As a writer and director, he mastered a genial, but sophisticated brand of humor that Steve Martin, Jerry Seinfeld and others emulated. As an actor, he was the ideal straight man for such manic performers as Mel Brooks and Sid Caesar and dependably funny on his own. As an all-around talent, he helped perfect two standard television formats—sketch and situation comedy.



millions more. Tall and agile, equally striking whether bald or toupeed, he entertained in every medium available to him, from movies and vinyl records to Broadway and Twitter. But he will be remembered best for "The Dick Van Dyke Show," the landmark series which aired from 1961-66 and was a master class of wit, ensemble playing, physical comedy and the overriding good nature of Reiner himself.

Billy Eichner and

Based on his time in the 1950s with Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows," the forerunner to "Saturday Night Live," it was among the first sit-coms about TV itself and inspired such future hits as "Mad About You" and "30 Rock."

Awkwafina, Zendaya among 819 invited to join film academy Cynthia Erivo, John David new class will have voting privi-Washington, Eva Longoria,

Zendaya and Awkwafina are among the 819 people who have been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The organization that puts on the Oscars announced the new invitees Tuesday. If they accept, which most do, those in the

leges at this year's Oscars. The massive 2020 list in-

cludes a diverse swath of people from all sectors of the industry, from acting to publicity to costume design. Invited actors include Ana De Armas ("Knives Out"), Brian Tyree Henry ("If Beale Street Could

Talk"), Florence Pugh ("Little Women"), Lakeith Stanfield ("Sorry to Bother You"), Beanie Feldstein ("Booksmart") and Constance Wu ("Crazy Rich Asians"). Directors like Lulu Wang ("The Farewell"), Ari Aster ("Midsommar"), Terence Davies ("The House of Mirth") and Matthew Vaughn ("Layer Cake") are also on the list.

A handful of actors from this year's best picture winner "Parasite," including Jang Hye-Jin, Jo Yeo-Jeong, Park So-Dam and Lee Jung-Eun, were also invited to join. The Academy said that 49% of the new invitees are international and represent some 68 countries.

#### Ex-husband of 'Real Housewives' star is charged in assault

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The ex-husband of a "Real Housewives of New Jersey" cast member hired a reputed mobster to carry out an assault of the woman's current husband in exchange for a lavish wedding reception, federal prosecutors in New Jersey said Tuesday. Thomas Manzo, 55, of Franklin Lakes, and John Perna, 43, of Cedar Grove, were each charged with conspiracy and committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering activity. Manzo is the ex-husband of Dina Manzo, while Perna was identified as a soldier in the Lucchese crime family, according to prosecutors.

Perna was also charged with conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud related to the submission of a false car insurance claim, while Thomas Manzo was charged with falsifying and concealing records related to the federal investigation of the violent crime. Both men were arrested Tuesday and made their initial court appearances later in the day via videoconferencing.

## Ex-wife of 'Da Vinci Code' author alleges he led double life

**BOSTON** (AP)—The exwife of "The Da Vinci Code" author Dan Brown has filed a lawsuit alleging the man known for writing about conspiracies and secret societies led a double life during their marriage that included a tryst with a Dutch horse trainer and other affairs.

In her lawsuit filed Monday in New Hampshire, Blythe Brown also claimed credit for inspiring much of his work coming up the premise for "The Da Vinci Code." She also alleged that Brown hid scores of future Brown projects worth "mil-

lions" from her, including a television series as well as a

children's book due out in September. The most explo-

sive allegations, however, are the extramarital affairs. Describing Brown's behavior as "unlawful and egregious," Brown said she only

learned about it after the pair divorced in 2019 after 21 years of marriage.

She accuses the best-selling author of secretly diverting funds to pay for gifts to an unnamed horse trainer, including several Friesian horses and financing for his lover's horse training business. She alleges the "illegal behavior" took place in New Hampshire, Europe and the Caribbean.

## Girl's tantrums stymie man's relationship with her mom

EAR ABBY: I have met the most remarkable woman, but after eight months of serious dating, I have realized that she has the worst and most manipulating 10-year-old daughter ever. She constantly claims sickness, and now even mental health issues like anxiety and panic disorder, although they have never been formally diagnosed, to prevent her mother and me from having time together. Immediately after her mother agrees to her daughter's request and lets her get her way, the kid becomes happy and energetic, and goes back to playing. (I feel she is laughing in my face.) The numerous cancellations and tantrums are very upsetting, and it hurts my feelings when the person I love most in the world sets me aside.

I had considered proposing marriage. I have a 13- and 17-year-old who are both respectful, energetic and happy. They have been through a lot since their mother abandoned us. but they would NEVER consider acting out like this girl.

Last weekend I was asked to bring her requested dinner and then leave, because she wanted Mommy to watch her watercolor. Abby, they are together every day, almost all day, and close relatives refuse to watch the child.

Is a resolution possible? Should I stay or should I go? When do I have the right to say enough is enough? The constant exclusions make me feel insignificant.

COUNTED OUT IN KENTUCKY

DEAR COUNTED OUT: If "close relatives" refuse to watch the child so your lady friend can have a break, there may be more to this story than you have written. The girl is fighting for her mother—and winning. From where I sit, Mama could benefit from some discussions with a child psychologist and lessons in how to say no to her daughter.

Adult relationships are supposed to make both parties feel better, not insignificant. As to whether you should stay or go, I think you would be wise to take a break from this relationship because, as it stands, it is going nowhere.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend who has stopped by unannounced several times. She'll send me a text, but without giving me a chance to respond, she just pops over. One time I was in the middle of studying for an exam and it wasn't a good time. Other times I was busy doing something and was startled when

Finally, I mentioned something in a text about how much I liked her as a friend but would really appreciate if she would wait for a response to her text before stopping by. It has been two or three days now, and she hasn't responded. I even said I didn't want to hurt her feelings and hope she understands.

I would think most people feel as I do about unannounced visitors, but I could be wrong. I would like to ask her how she would feel about it, but before I do, I need to know what's "normal."

**BUSY AND BOTHERED** 

#### **DEAR ABBY**

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR B & B: It is considered normal good manners to ask if it is convenient—and wait for a response—before stopping by someone's home so it will not be an intrusion. You were studying, but many people work from home and also don't want to be disturbed. Others prefer to be "presentable" before they have company. Interesting, isn't it, how many self-centered individuals become hypersensitive when called on their behavior.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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## **Pastimes**

#### Calvin and Hobbes

#### WOW, THESE CAME OUT OH BOY: THERE'S ME! YES! YES! WE'RE RICH! HOBBES, LOOK HAHA! NOW WE CAN GET OUR OWN APARTMENT! WE GOT OUR PICTURE 5 G0001.1 L00K BACK FROM OUR JURASSI APATOSAUR TRIP. BLINKED

#### By Bill Waterson

IF WE PAY HIM.

HE HAS TO LET

BEEP THE HORN, RIGHT

I'LL BUY A

SINCE I

CAR TOO, BUT

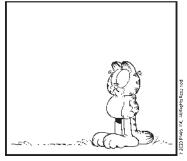
FOR AMOTHER

DECADE, WE'LL HAVE TO GET

A CHAUFFEUR

## **Garfield®**









#### Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

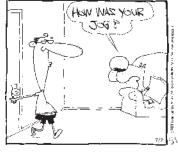
By Glenn McCoy

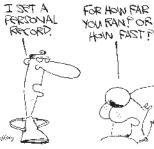














#### By Eugene Sheffer **CROSSWORD**

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or answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King **STUMPED?** Features service, NYC

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mar**got Robbie, 30; Alex Morgan, 31; Ashley Tisdale, 35; Larry David, 73

Happy Birthday: You may be smart and talented but you do need to take better care of your health and well-being this year. A fitness routine may not be your idea of a good time, but it will help build stamina that will offset illness and give you strength to reach your goals. Adopt good habits, and press forward with intensity. Your numbers are 9, 16, 23, 32, 36, 40, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your emotions will be riding high and will need an outlet. Spending time with your lover or taking time to pamper yourself will help you put your emotional energy to good use. Invest time and money in something that offers long-term benefits. OCCO

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think big, but don't go overboard. It's OK to have high expectations, but being realistic will ensure that you are heading in a direction that won't disappoint you. Put your strategy in place

before you take a leap of faith. ��� GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Personal improvement will make you feel good as well as build confidence. Set a goal that will encourage you to live a healthy, happy life. Proper diet, exercise and associating with like-minded people will help. •••

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Anger is a waste of time. If you want to get the most out of your day, concentrate on a physical challenge. Move your body more, and stop

talking about people and situations that can fuel a fight. OOO

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take on a challenge that will help you get into shape. Put in a call to an associate you have worked with; it will lead to a new opportunity. Do something for a friend, relative or neighbor in need of assistance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay calm, regardless of what's going on around you. Acceptance and working with what's available to you will show how adaptable you are. Be the one to offer guidance, solutions and understanding. You'll accomplish what you set out to do. 😂

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Time spent pampering and taking care of your needs will help ease stress. Refuse to let anyone put demands on you. Stay focused on what makes you happy, not angry. Offer peace and love, and you'll get something much better in return. OCCO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Experience is the key to success. Observe, listen and ask questions when in doubt. Gather information that will encourage you to use your skills to excel. Opportunity is within reach if you are willing to put in the extra effort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Initiate your plans. Take action, and do your own thing. Don't rely on others. Concen-

trate on personal gain, looking your best and paying close attention to detail. Live passionately, be resourceful and do things your way. Romance is featured. OOO

**EUGENIA** 

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Incor-

porate change into your everyday routine. Put more effort into improving your environment and surroundings to fit your needs. Mix business with pleasure to ensure that everyone you love is included in your plans. A meaningful relationship will bring you happiness. ���

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a

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positive change to the way you live and how you present yourself to the world. Greater discipline will help you stick to a healthy routine and encourage you to take on a trendy new look. 🛇 🔾 🔾

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A helpful attitude will encourage others to do something nice in return. Choose your words wisely, and you will make a difference to someone who is in a position to offer good advice as well as solutions.

Birthday Baby: You are excitable, engaging and clever. You are aggressive and outspoken.

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PIAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hori-fically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the

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By DAVID

**OUELLET** 

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Sudoku is a number-placing

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SISTIUBERAGMENT 2 2020 Andrews McMee Syndication | www.wanderword.com Bacon, Break, Carrots, Celery, Cheese, Chunk, Cleave Crumb. Eggplant, Even, Fragment, Freezing, Fried, Fruits, Helping, Large, Meals, Medium, Morsel, Mouthful, Nibble, Onion, Peel, Peppers, Plateful, Rectangular, Reduce, Salad, Segment, Shape, Share, Sharp, Slice, Siiver, Small, Split Up, Square, Squash, Style, Texture, Tidbit, Tomatoes, Wedge Yesterday's Answer: Mechanic

The NEW **Treasury 39** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

## Lakers reporting to camp with many questions

LOS ANGELES— Around 1pm on the afternoon before training camp the Lakers didn't know which players would be available for that first session.

"The process of testing is every other day and so I can't predict what the test results I'm going to get this afternoon will be," Rob Pelinka, the Lakers' general manager and vice president of basketball operations, said Tuesday during a video conference call. "And so that question changes moment to moment, test to test."

Such is the uncertainty in the age of COVID-19.

The NBA, which suspended operations March 11 after Utah center Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19, will be attempting to resume operations in July. Teams will travel to Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla., during the second week of the month.

The league will allow teams to hold mandatory individual workouts for players at their team facilities starting Wednesday, the same day teams must submit the names of their travel party, which can be no bigger than 35 people, including up to 17 players.

Once they go to Florida, which the Lakers are planning to do July 9, they will be able to hold mandatory group workouts.

Those rules are set, as is the strict protocol teams and players will have to follow regarding the virus that has disrupted communities around the world and killed more than 125,000 Americans. Even as cases rise in Florida, the NBA believes it has found a safe way to resume in the state.

"All of us see the reports and the numbers and the spikes in the various cities we live in and parts of Florida," Pelinka said. "Yes, of course, those numbers are daunting. But the whole purpose of creating this environment is to not have the virus be there and keep the virus on the outside. ... I think our goal as a collective entity is to try to pull that off where it's safer inside than on the outside.

Although other teams have revealed some positive tests the NBA announced last week that 16 out of 302 players tested positive—Pelinka declined to say whether any Lakers were among them. League-mandated testing began June 23.

The Lakers won't have veteran guard Avery Bradley, who decided to skip the trip out of concern for the health of his young son, who has a respiratory condition that puts him at high risk if he were to



contract COVID-19.

"It's tough to lose Avery his toughness, his defensive tenacity," Pelinka said. "But we completely understand his decision. ... As a friend of Avery's and [wife] Ashley's and as a former agent of their family, and as the GM of the Lakers, I was really hoping for them to have an opportunity to compete for a championship. But I understand that in this instance, safety and family is first."

Pelinka has been in communication with Dwight Howard, who has expressed hesitancy about going to Florida. Howard's focus this summer has been on issues of racism and justice, as well as a difficult time for his family. The mother of his 6-year-old son died suddenly in March due to epilepsy. Pelinka said that also is weighing on Howard.

"We are going to continue to work through those extenuating circumstances with Dwight, support him, support his 6-year-old son and hope for the best that he would be a part of our roster in Orlando,' Pelinka said.

What players will be available isn't the only question mark.

The Lakers haven't determined which 35 people from the organization will be part of their travel group, and the names could change even after they give the league their list, in part because positive COVID-19 tests between now and their departure could impact that number.

Pelinka spoke with a mixture of caution, excitement and melancholy. He acknowledged the toll this experiment will take on families, including his own. If the Lakers go to the Finals, they could be locked into the NBA campus from July 9 until October 13 with limited family time.

"Have I had nights at dinner where I'll look over and my 10-year-old daughter has tears in her eyes and I ask her why and she says, 'It's because daddy could be gone for 31/2 months'?" Pelinka said. "Yes, that stuff is part of this. But I think she understands the bigger picture."

#### **Nuggets to close** practice facilities

In Denver, the Nuggets say they've closed their facilities after two members of the team's traveling party tested positive for the coronavirus over the weekend. A third tested positive this week.

All three are asymptomatic, the Nuggets said Tuesday in confirming a report by ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

The 35-member traveling party includes players, coaches and staff.

Also Tuesday, Pelicans general manager David Griffin

said three New Orleans players have tested positive for COVID-19 and will be in selfisolation until testing shows they can return to team activities without infecting others.

It's unclear if the Nuggets will reopen their practice facilities before the team flies to Orlando on July 7 to resume the season that was halted in mid-March because of the virus, which has has killed more than 128,000 people in the United States.

The 22 teams that will restart to their practice facilities last March. (AP/NBC)

week and players, coaches and staff have been subject to ongoing testing as they prepare to resume the season.

A week ago, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Nuggets superstar center Nikola Jokic, one of only four players averaging 20 points and 10 rebounds, tested positive for the virus in Serbia,

Nuggets coach Michael Malone revealed recently that he tested positive for COV-ID-19 antibodies and said he the season July 30 returned believes he had the virus in

#### Silver defends bubble, will stop restart if COVID cases grow

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted dramatically since the NBA announced its plan to run a bubble league at Disney World.

But as the pandemic continues to worsen in the United States, the league is moving forward. For now, at least.

spiked across the country with of the pandemic in the United Florida among the worst-hit states. Meanwhile, NBA players and team staff members are regularly testing positive for COVID-19, while other players are opting out of the bubble league entirely.

Commissioner Adam Silver addressed those concerns in a Time 100 talk on Tuesday. He believes the plan for league's return is sound and will be provide a safer environment for people inside the bubble than they would face in their daily lives.

"Our model was designed to protect us and our players from cases outside the community," Silver said, per the New York Times' Span Deb. "Maybe at the time we designed it, we didn't think it would be as necessary as it is now."

Silver said that the league did Coronavirus cases have not anticipate the recent growth States when it laid out its bubble league plan in early June. But he argued that predicting the trajectory of the coronavirus was folly and that the bubble was designed to protect those inside with or without a spike in outside cases.

"When we designed this plan, we were not seeing the kind of increases in cases, frankly-not just in Florida and Texas, but at least, as of the last few days, the majority of states in the United Staes

are seeing increases in CO-VID cases," Silver said.

"So it's not as if, especially looking out into the future, there's any safe way to predict or pick a market where we'll be confident that the cases will be sufficiently down. So our model was designed for this."

Florida has seen a significant spike in COVID-19 cases since Gov. Ron DeSantis lifted social distancing guidelines in May and courted sports to resume in his state.

The state eclipsed 150,000 confirmed cases on Tuesday with a death toll of 3,505. Meanwhile Dr. Anthony Fauci criticized the nationwide movement to reopen in testimony to Congress. The leading infectious disease expert at the National Institutes of Health predicted a nationwide surge of 100,000 new cases per day if steps aren't taken to slow the spread of COVID-19.

While expressing confidence in the bubble's ability to withstand the outside forces of COVID-19 in Florida, Silver didn't rule out things going bad inside the bubble. He acknowledged the reality of isolated cases of players and staff testing positive, but plans to shut things down if an outbreak occurs.

"If cases are isolated, that's one thing," Silver told the Associated Press. "But if we had a lot of cases, we're going to stop."

He said the bubble won't be completely isolated. Disney staffers will be allowed to "come in and out" of the bubble and subject to regular testing as they do. Those staffers will also be required to remain "far more than 10 feet" away from players. (AP/NBC)

## Yanks optimistic Judge, other stars healthy

NEW YORK (AP)—Given an extra 3 1/2 months for their brittle stars to heal, the New York Yankees will closely monitor the conditioning of Aaron Judge, James Paxton, Aaron Hicks and Giancarlo Stanton ahead of a season unlike any other.

"We want these players to withstand a 60-game sprint over a 66-day schedule," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said Tuesday on the eve of the first arrivals for "spring" training 2.0, already dubbed summer camp in Major League Baseball's marketing deal.

New York had been set to open March 26 at Baltimore with many of its key cogs on the injured list but expects all of them to be available when training resumes this weekend.

Sound familiar?

New York placed a big league record 30 players on the injured list a total of 39 times last season, then overhauled its training and conditioning staff.

"Ultimately, we're in it to

win it," Cashman said, "and I think everybody else should be feeling the same way. And especially in a shortened season, I think it heightens the ability for anybody to really take a shot at the title. And so, therefore, how do they respond to this challenge remains to be seen, but I think it's certainly going to open it up for a lot of opportunities for teams to take advantage of."

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Yankees are to play their rescheduled opener at World Series champion Washington on July 23 in what could be a matchup of new Yankees ace Gerrit Cole and Max Scherzer, who helped the Nationals beat Cole's Houston Astros in World Series Game 7 last fall.

New York is slated to go to Philadelphia before its home homer against the Phillies on July 29, according to information obtained by The Associated Press.

Judge did not play in any exhibition games due to discomfort in his right pectoral



## Washington DC launches bid to host 2026 FIFA World Cup matches

WASHINGTON—It's still six years out, but Washington, D.C. is making a push to bring the 2026 FIFA World Cup to the nation's capital.

With North America selected as the location of choice for the 2026 World Cup rather than one country in particular, D.C. officials announced Tuesday their intention to make Washington one of the 16 host cities for the

80-match tournament.

"Right now, as countries around the world continue to respond to this pandemic, the 2026 FIFA World Cup is something we can all look forward to," D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said in a statement. "And when the tournament comes to North America, it only makes sense for DC—the Sports Capital and District of Champions to host. We are already a city united by the game, and in 2026, we look forward to uniting the world"

According to The Washington Post, 10 cities from the U.S. are expected to land matches for the tournament with Canada and Mexico splitting the other six. It will be the first time in World Cup history that the tournament will be shared by more than two countries.

The District established a group called DC2026, which announced a 40-member advisory board that includes D.C. United goalkeeper Bill

Hamid, three-time MLS champion Eddie Pope, Washington Spirit stars Joanna Lohman and Andi Sullivan, two-time gold med-

> alist Brianna Scurry, EventsDC chairman Max Brown, chef José Andrés and D.C. Unit-

ed general partner Gregory O'Dell.

"As a native Washingtonian, I am proud to be a co-Chair of DC's official bid committee to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup," Hamid said in a statement. "I could not think of a more vibrant, inclusive or passionate soccer city to host FIFA World Cup matches in 2026. With our deep soccer roots and diversity, the culture of our city gives us our foundation to successfully highlight the matches and leave a lasting impact on the future of the game."

DC2026 plans to tout D.C.'s "unparalleled roots to the sport of soccer and world-class hosting capabilities" as part of its pitch. In a three-page press release, the group laid out advantages such as the metro system and three local airports that would allow it to host the increased number of tourists.

The city last hosted the World Cup in 1994, when it made RFK Stadium one of nine U.S. venues for the tournament. It's also held Olympic soccer games (1996) as well as the 1999 and 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup. (NBC)

muscle and shoulder that he felt when swinging. The Yankees said March 6 that the right fielder had a stress fracture to his first right rib, an injury likely dating from a diving catch late last season. Judge later said he had a collapsed lung.

"We are very optimistic as of right now that maybe his proximation that he would be ready on opening day and in the lineup will ring true," Cashman said. "So now it comes down to game reps and facing live pitching and seeing if he's in game shape."

Paxton had surgery Feb. 5 to repair a herniated disk in his back and to remove a peridiscal cyst. The left-hander exited his final regular-season start, at Texas on Sept. 27, after one inning with what the Yankees said was a tight left glute muscle, then returned for three postseason starts.

"We believe that his injury issue is resolved," Cashman

said, adding New York needs to evaluate Paxton's arm strength.

After agreeing to a \$324 million, nine-year contract, Cole heads a rotation that includes Paxton, righty Masahiro Tanaka, Paxton and lefty J.A. Happ. Lefty Jordan Montgomery could be the fifth starter.

Right-hander Luis Severino is recovering from Tommy John surgery on Feb. 27.

Hicks, a switch-hitting center fielder, is recovering from Tommy John surgery on his right elbow on Oct. 31. Cashman said wants to evaluate his conditioning.

"I'm sure he feels he'll be game ready by opening day, and I think that's possible," he said.

Stanton strained his right calf during defensive drills on Feb. 26.

"If you're shooting for the DH role by opening day, I think that's a possibility," Cashman said before saying Stanton's left field availability "is to be

determined."

Cashman said some players may arrive late because of travel and the first official session for pitchers, catchers and injured players could be pushed back a day to Saturday.

Director of medical services Steve Donohue, director of sports medicine and rehabilitation Michael Schuk and head athletic trainer Tim Lentych are trying to prepare Yankee Stadium for workouts that normally take place at George Steinbrenner Field and the minor league complex in Tampa, Florida.

"They're working with out stadium ops personnel to utilize every aspect of the blueprint at Yankee Stadium, and that's not just your field of play," Cashman said. "Clearly you have a visiting clubhouse, you have an auxiliary clubhouse, you have a home clubhouse, so we'll be expanding and dispersing our players throughout."

In this Oct. 16, 2017 file photo, New York Yankees' Aaron Judge makes a leaping catch of a ball hit by Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel during the fourth inning of Game 3 of the American League Championship Series in New York.

Both batting cages and bullpens will be used. The Great Hall under the stands on the first base side will be the site of throwing programs. He is talking to opposing GMs about scheduling the three allowed exhibitions just before opening day, and the Mets are the most likely opponent because of the short travel distance.

Cashman is preparing for a season of changes on short notice.

"If we have a game tomorrow," he said, "and your starter shows up and he has a temperature and all of a sudden has symptoms out of the blue right before the start, how do you adjust along the way?"

#### Ohtani returns to 2-way role with Angels

In California, Shohei Ohtani will resume his two-way career with the Los Angeles Angels when baseball returns.

Angels general manager Billy Eppler confirmed Tuesday that his Japanese star will pitch and hit in the majors this season.

Ohtani was only a designated hitter last season after undergoing Tommy John surgery. He wasn't expected to pitch in 2020 until at least May, and Eppler confirmed that the coronavirus pandemic hasn't altered the Angels' plans.

"We'll probably have a little bit more of a governor on him, at least at the outset," Eppler said. "He's had a number of live (throwing sessions against hitters), but we want to up that intensity a little bit more and put him into a game situation. Just watching how he responds on a day-to-day basis will help guide us to how much we can push down on the gas pedal on him. We're expecting him to be on the mound and stay on the mound and roll through spring training."

Manager Joe Maddon said last week that he hoped Ohtani would start roughly once a week on the mound while serving as the Halos' designated hitter in 3-4 games between starts. The Angels could have a six-man rotation for the short season.

Ohtani batted .286 last season with 18 homers and 62 RBI and an .848 OPS in 106 games. His production at the plate was nearly identical to his work in 2018, when he was the AL Rookie of the Year while making 10 starts on the mound.

S P O R T S THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020 **23** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Beckham will not join Newton, Patriots



LAND — Wherever Odell Beckham Jr. goes, trade speculation

seems to follow.

This time, the people are wondering if the Cleveland Browns wide receiver will ask for a trade to the New England Patriots to join his good friend Cam Newton, who signed with the Pats on Sunday. A comedian named Bob Menery tweeted at Beckham on Monday about that very thing, but Beckham shot it down quickly.

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Alex Wood made a prediction that Beckham would be traded to the Pats before the season ended, which Beckham swatted away by proclaiming his dedication to Cleveland.

Beckham's words probably give Browns fans some comfort, but it wasn't crazy to wonder if he'd want to join Newton in New England. OBJ and Cam aren't just good friends, they're also training partners. Just two days ago, Beckham posted a video of the two of them working out (and spraying sweat onto the camera).

And he posted one two weeks before that.

There was a slim possibility that the two of them could have been on the same team in the upcoming season. Adam Schefter said on his podcast Monday that the Browns were the only other team that even spoke to Newton about a contract this offseason, but that conversation didn't amount to anything.

Despite the trade speculation that never seems to end, Beckham said he's committed to finishing his business with the Browns. Considering that the Browns finished 6-10 last season after a promising start, and Beckham had a pretty down year as well, there's



more than enough business for OBJ to start finishing.

Meanwhile, the newest quarterback of the Patriots isn't wasting any time in getting together with one of his future pass targets in New

England.

In an instagram video from The Sideline Hustle, Newton was shown working out at a field on the campus of UCLA with wide receiver Mohamed Sanu on Tuesday.

nually with Guam, Palau, and the CNMI taking turns in

hosting the event. The 2018

edition of the canoe compe-

tition was supposed to take

place on Saipan, but the tour-

nament was canceled as Super

Typhoon Yutu slammed the

islands just a few days before

the races began. Beside the

three island-nations, paddlers

from Hong Kong, Australia,

and Japan are also invited in

the competition.

Carolina Panthers and Sanu with the Atlanta Falcons. Now together in New England they will be tasked with taking over for Tom Brady and trying to keep extend a streak of AFC East division titles to 12 straight seasons.

Newton and Sanu were fre-

quent opponents of each other

when Newton was with the

Both Newton and Sanu are looking to bounce back after injuries after their 2019 seasons. Newton was limited to just two games before a Lisfranc injury ended his final season in Carolina. Sanu was slowed significantly after he was traded to New England last year when he sustained a high-ankle sprain in just his

In this Dec. 8, 2019 file photo, Cleveland Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. (13) makes a catch beside Cincinnati Bengals cornerback William Jackson (22) during an NFL game in Cleveland.

second game with the team.

In Kansas City, with the deadline for signing a longterm deal while on the franchise tag just over two weeks away, Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones may be trying to assert some leverage into negotiations.

In a reply via his Twitter account to a segment from the NFL Network discussing his contract situation, Jones said that he won't play in 2020 if he doesn't get a long-term deal from the Chiefs.

Le'Veon Bell sat out the entire 2018 after the Pittsburgh Steelers used the franchise tag on him for a second consecutive season. The Steelers did not use the tag again on Bell last year and he signed a free agent deal with the New York Jets instead.

Jones doesn't appear to be particularly close to reaching a deal with the Chiefs at the moment. The franchise tag tender for Jones is worth \$16.1 million for the upcoming year. Jones has posted 24.5 sacks combined over the last two seasons for Kansas City with career-high 15.5 sacks coming in 2018.

#### **PADDLERS**

From Page 24

are in now.

**MARPI** 

From Page 24

freestyle swims).

have in common?

Swimming Pool.

The former Kan Pacific

Since opening its doors to the public in the late 1980s,

the Marpi facility had been

the breeding ground for re-

Last year, Palau hosted the Micro Cup with Saipan Paddling Club representing the CNMI and winning silver medals in the 1,000m sprints for both men and women's races and the men and women's distance events, and bronze in the men's 500m sprint.

The Micro Cup is held an-

Jinnosuke earning three (11 to

12's 400m, 800m, and 1,500m

The Suzuki brothers and

Akimaru are just three of the

many CNMI swimmers, who

managed to excel not only

in local competitions, but in

off-island tournaments, too.

Also on the long list of CNMI swimmers that broke records

one after another and brought honors to the Commonwealth by racing in international and regional meets across the globe are CNMI Hall of Famer Xenavee Pangelinan and Olympian Jonathan Sakovich. The islands' swimmers have been regulars in the FINA World Championships and FINA World Cup, have raced in the Pacific and Mini Pacific Games, and the Micronesian Games, and were also invited to compete in Japan, Australia, Guam, Palau, and elsewhere. What do these achievers



In this 2017 file photo, Saipan Paddling Club members compete in the 500m race in the Micronesian Cup at Matapang Beach in Guam.

started coordinating with various government agencies and the private sector to reopen the facility and bring back to life what was once a thriving

tor in the Commonwealth's outstanding performance in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. The CNMI collected 44 gold medals, 23 silver, and

25 bronze. The 44 gold medals were the most the islands got since the inception of the Micro Games in 1969 and nearly half of them came from swimming—13 were from the Micro Games' top male athlete Rezne Wong.

The next Micro Games is two years away and there will be other tournaments in between, like the 19th FINA World Aquatics Championships (Long Course) in Japan in 2021 and 15th FINA World Swimming Championship (Short Course) also in 2021 in Abu Dhabi.

It's just right that CNMI swimmers prepare hard for these competitions and return to the place where they truly belong—the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



In this file photo, CNMI swimmer Victoria Chentsova assists a young swimmer during a clinic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

cord-holders and competition medalists, as well as refuge for people wanting to learn waters safety techniques to protect themselves and their family and enjoy the islands and its pristine beaches.

Unfortunately, the only 50-meter pool in the CNMI ceased operations on Sept. 30, 2018 and since then, the islands' swimmers, showing persistence despite the absence of an appropriate training venue, opted to practice in private pools.

The Kan Pacific Pool up to this day has remained closed, but efforts have been made to work on its reopening. The Northern Marianas Islands Swimming Federation and the Northern Marianas Sports Association, early this year, have

sports program in the CNMI. Swimming played a big fac-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2016 file photo, the CNMI's Christian Villacrusis, left, gets ready for the 100m individual medley event in the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships held in Windsor, Canada.



Yanks optimistic Judge, other stars healthy

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Paddlers would take it slow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

**24** THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020

hough restrictions have been eased during this COVID-19 pandemic, the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation won't be taking any chances and would gradually get back into its regular schedule.

"We will regroup and assess things and go from there," NMNPSF president Justin Andrew said.

Outrigger canoe, paddling, and other water sports are now allowed as amendments to the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives of 2020 have been made, moving the Community Vulnerability Level from "Yellow" to "Blue" or just one step away from the desired level ("Green").

Andrew acknowledged that they can now return to their sport, but still need to be cau-



tious and follow safety guidelines, including limiting the number of people gathering for an event and following social distancing rules.

"We are told to ensure no sick paddlers are allowed to paddle by taking temperatures

and continuing to practice social distancing and other important safety practices," the paddling

group head said.

Andrew added that though they can now do groups rides,

there will be no tournaments and big events in the near future and

instead they will focus for on trainings/practices. Paddlers are also encouraged to continue their land-based training.

If not for this pandemic, CNMI paddlers would have been holding series of races to prepare for the 2020 Micronesia Cup, which is scheduled this October in Guam.

Andrew said they have yet to hear updates on the competition from Guam organizers and they would have to inquire whether the tournament will push through or not under the circumstances that we

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#### CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI swimmers and their coaches join Pacific's Father of Swimming and Saipan Swim Club co-founder Bill Sakovich, second left front row, for a group photo at the closing ceremonies of last year's Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships in Palau.

## Marpi pool shapes swimmers into achievers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

On this day, three years ago, CNMI swimmer Lenno- Northern Mariana Islands suke Suzuki had a Swimming Federation record-breaking de-

but in the prestigious 69th An- 28, 2008) of Kai Staal in the nual Keo Nakama Invitational boys 13 to 14 age group.

held at the Veterans' Memorial Aquatic Center in Hawaii.

Suzuki raced in the 200m freestyle event and clocked in at 2:06.02 to crush the 9-year-old record (2:07.15/Dec.

Five more age group marks were made by CNMI swimmers in the Hawaii tournament held from June 30 to July 2, 2017, with Kento Akimaru setting two (800m and 1,500m freestyle events in the 15 to 16 division) and Suzuki's brother,

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SAIPAN TRIBLINE

In this file photo, CNMI swimmer Lennosuke Suzuki competes in the 100m butterfly event during a local race at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.